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ABSTRACT

These 11 issues discuss concerns related to child advocacy and provide information on problems in children's lives in the United States. Regular features include the editorial column "A Voice for Children," a status report on federal legislation related to children, descriptions of Children's Defense Fund activities, news from the Black Community Crusade for Children, media tips, field strategies, and summaries of relevant research and reports. Topics covered in major articles include the following: (1) January--child care, proposed federal child care legislation, and key facts about children's well-being; (2) February--1997 congressional voting record; (3) March--reflecting on the work of CDF after 25 years, child care needs, myths, and investments; (4) April-May--low-income working families and child care, and the Stand for Children initiative; (5) June--state child health insurance programs and children's sabbaths; (6) July--the Stand for Children initiative, ending gun violence against children, and the benefits of ending child poverty; (7) August--Freedom Schools, hardships of families leaving welfare, and family care programs; (8) September--after-school programs, coordinating efforts for welfare recipients, and the Children's Health Insurance Program; (9) October--declines in child gun deaths and teen birth rates and maternal and infant health; (10) November--federal juvenile crime bill and the Child Watch Visitation Program; and (11) December--children's sabbath celebrations, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and a special report on 25 years of child advocacy by the CDF. (KB)

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CDF Reports, 1998

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Children's Defense Fund
25 Years
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CDF Reports

Marian Wright Edelman, President

January 1998
Volume 19, Number 1

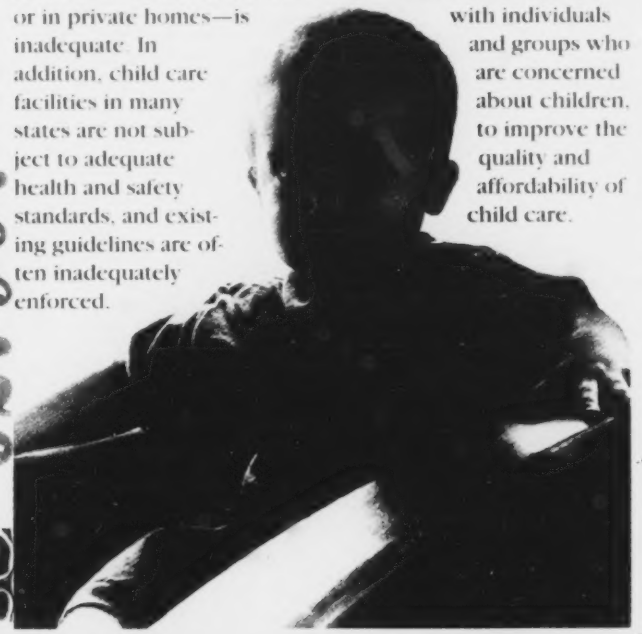
Child care: America's challenge

Every day, three out of five preschoolers go to child care centers or homes and millions of older children go to after-school activities while their parents work. Although the hours spent in child care and after-school programs help shape the lives of millions of children, there has been little attention paid to the *quality* of those experiences.

Studies have found that the child care many children receive—whether in centers or in private homes—is inadequate. In addition, child care facilities in many states are not subject to adequate health and safety standards, and existing guidelines are often inadequately enforced.

What's more, many working parents face great difficulty finding *affordable* child care. Child care costs typically range from $4,000 to $10,000 annually per child. Yet half of America's families with young children earn less than $35,000 a year. As a result, too many parents simply cannot find quality child care that they can afford.

Throughout 1998, CDF will be leading a major nationwide campaign, with individuals and groups who are concerned about children, to improve the quality and affordability of child care.



"The need for quality child care and after-school activities is a daily concern for millions of working parents in America," says CDF President Marian Wright Edelman. "We must provide more support to help families pay for child care, strengthen the quality of child care—especially in the developmentally crucial early years—and increase families' options for good after-school care."

Finding quality child care is difficult

Although it is important that parents have the option to stay at home with their children, particularly in the early months and years, this is not a realistic choice for many families. Unfortunately, millions of American children who need child care every day while their parents work are receiving low-quality care. A recent national study by a group of universities found that child care at most centers in the United States is mediocre to poor, with as many as one-half of the infants and toddlers getting less than minimal quality care and 40 percent of the rooms for infants providing such poor quality care that it jeopardizes children's health, safety, or development.

The failure to provide good child care may have a long-lasting impact on a child's future, says CDF Child Care Director Helen Blank. Quality care is essential to children's development and has a long-term

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Child care: America's challenge

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effect on their well-being and ability to learn. Infants and toddlers are particularly vulnerable to poor-quality care. A recent Carnegie Corporation study is only one of a number that have called attention to the first three years of life as being critical to brain development of children. Moreover, brain development is far more susceptible to adverse effects than had earlier been realized.

"All children need to be in safe and healthy environments, with caregivers who are nurturing and knowledgeable about child development," Blank says. "It's also important that caregivers serve as a stable presence in the lives of children and are able to provide one-on-one attention."

Yet rapid turnover rates among child care providers—linked closely to low wages—break the stable relationships that children need to experience with their caregivers to feel safe and secure.

The average child care worker makes about $12,000 a year, less than garbage collectors and many bartenders. In many states, hair stylists and manicurists require more hours of training than do child care providers.

Barbara Willer, public affairs director for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), agrees that it's time for the country to begin investing more in wages, training, and education to halt turnover rates among child care staff. "Our number one concern is making sure that all children have access to high-quality services that promote their healthy development and learning," she adds.

After-school activities

The need for quality care is not limited to very young children. Nearly five million children ages 5 to 14 are home alone after school each week. Good after-school activities for children and teens are scarce in many communities. This shortage of adequate after-school care is even more pronounced in low-income neighborhoods. Ensuring that school-aged children are in safe and supervised settings once classes have let out is critical for many reasons, not least because the rate of juvenile crime doubles in the hours from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (see the November 1997 *CDF Reports* for more information).

Affordable child care

Child care is a major household expense for most families, but its cost hits working families who earn low wages especially hard. For example, the Census Bureau reports that families with incomes below $14,400 a year who have to pay for child care themselves spend, on average, a quarter of their income for it. The monthly cost of child care can easily exceed a family's housing costs and car payments. Even middle-income parents are surprised at the cost and find it difficult to meet child care expenses given all of the other demands on their budgets. Finding affordable, quality child care can be even more difficult for Black and Hispanic working parents (see story, page 11).

Community groups and agencies, businesses, and federal and state governments all can play a role in increasing families' access to affordable child care, according to Blank. The federal government, for example, should expand the Child Care and Development Block Grant to help states to strengthen the quality of child care—especially for infants and toddlers—to assist more low- and moderate-income families with their child care costs, and to increase the availability of good school-age programs. Additionally, more employers should offer child care benefits, including helping parents pay for care or providing on-site services or other supports.

Getting involved in the child care campaign

Child advocates in 1998 can help make the promise of high-quality, affordable child care a reality for all families. Throughout the 1998 congressional session, advocates should join letter-

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Child care receives President's backing

On Jan. 7, President Clinton announced an initiative to help America's working families afford better child care and to give more children a Head Start in life. What follows is a summary of the President's proposal.

Total funding: $21.7 billion over five years (including $10.5 billion in new mandatory funds).

Making child care affordable: A $7.5 billion increase for the states to build on governors' successful efforts to help more families pay for child care.

Meeting the demand for Head Start: $3.8 billion to make Early Head Start and Head Start available to more children. (Only approximately two out of five 3- and 4-year-olds eligible for Head Start's comprehensive services were served in 1997.)

Improving quality of child care: $3 billion for an Early Learning Fund to improve the quality of child care; $500 million for consumer protections by improving licensing and enforcement of health and safety standards; $250 million for child care provider scholarships, compensation, and career development; and $150 million for research and evaluation.

Expanding school-age care: $800 million to provide after-school care to children through community learning centers.

Offering more families tax credits: $5.2 billion for improvements to the Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC) and $500 million for an Employer Tax Credit. Proposed changes in the DCTC would permit families earning $30,000 or less to reduce the amount of income tax they owe to help pay for child care expenses.

Says CDF Child Care Division Director Helen Blank: "President Clinton has taken an important first step toward meeting the child care needs of America's families, but we all must now pull together and work energetically with both parties in Congress to win for children. Advocates must urge members of Congress to build upon the President's proposal and pass a comprehensive child care package this year."

CDF Reports

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A Voice for Children

by CDF President Marian Wright Edelman

Make safe, affordable child care a reality

Vanessa Noyes, a single mother living in Louisville, Ky., recently had to pull her 3-year-old son, Nicholas, out of a preschool where he was doing well because she could no longer afford its cost. Vanessa, 26, had been paying $55 a week for her son's preschool under a state program designed to help low-income working families afford child care. But when a new job increased her annual salary from $15,000 to $18,000, she lost all state assistance. Her preschool costs more than doubled.

Now Vanessa is searching for a new preschool. "I want my son in a good child care setting where the people are really involved with the children," she says. "But the problem I've found is that everything is so expensive."

Even child care centers that appear crowded and poorly run—places where she would worry about leaving her son—cost $55 to $75 a week, Vanessa explains. For the time being, Vanessa's mother and other relatives are taking care of Nicholas while she works, but they can only help out on a short-term basis.

There's no reason why all children in this country who need it shouldn't be in safe, reliable, and good-quality child care arrangements that their families can afford.

When I was a young child, I went everywhere with my parents or I was under the watchful eye of members of our community and congregation. But today so many parents who must go out of the home to work don't have this kind of support system. Like Vanessa, there are millions of working parents in the United States who now face child care dilemmas—for some, a crisis—each day. Like Vanessa, half of America's families with young children earn less than $35,000 a year, and millions of them cannot find child care that is both good and affordable.

One in 10 children with working parents is poor even when both parents work. And an additional two out of 10 children with working parents would also be poor if their mothers stopped working.

Despite costs that range from $4,000 to $10,000 a year for just one child, six out of seven child care facilities have been judged as poor or mediocre. Given this startling fact, parents worry that their children are not receiving the care they need to develop into healthy and successful early learners.

This is truly unacceptable. There's no reason why all children in this country who need it shouldn't be in safe, reliable, and good-quality child care arrangements that their families can afford.

As the Children's Defense Fund launches its 1998 child care campaign (see story, page 1), every one of us must seize an unprecedented opportunity to champion this cause. Call on members of Congress to pass major new legislation to improve the quality and affordability of child care. Urge leaders in your states to increase community supports for quality child care.

Get involved with this year's campaign by taking a Stand For Quality Child Care June 1 and participating in the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths in October. Encourage schools, businesses, governments, religious institutions, and communities everywhere to join us. Let us invest in America's children by making safe, affordable, quality child care, after-school options, and summer programs a reality for all children who need them.

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Proposed federal child care legislation

A number of proposals have been introduced in Congress to help parents afford child care and to make it more plentiful and of higher quality.

"It is clear that there is a growing interest on Capitol Hill in child care," says CDF Child Care Director Helen Blank. "While few bills cover all of the areas where working families need help—affordability, quality, and expanding and improving care for infants and toddlers, as well as school-age children—we are encouraged by the breadth and depth of interest policy makers are taking in seeking child care solutions."

Although CDF has not yet endorsed any particular bill, Blank says child care advocates are hoping that one comprehensive proposal emerges in 1998 that makes significant improvements in child care quality and invests in families by helping working parents pay for child care.

Here is a brief look at the major child care bills pending as of late January:

In the Senate

- **S.1492, the Healthy and Smoke-Free Children Act, sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.).** Identical to H.R.3028 introduced in the House by Rep. Rosa De Lauro (D-Conn.). Would raise the price of cigarettes by $1.50 per pack to fund public health and children's programs. Approximately $30 billion over five years would go to fund child care and Head Start. Another $20 billion would be available to states to support a variety of children's services including additional child care and Head Start.

- **S.1577, the Caring for Children Act, sponsored by Senator John Chafee (R-R.I.) and co-sponsored by Senators Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), Arlen Spector (R-Pa.), and Susan Collins (R-Maine).** The bill would increase the authorization for the Child Care and Development Block Grant by $5 billion over five years; expand the Dependent Care Tax Credit for middle-income families; provide tax credits for parents with children under age 4 who do not work outside the home; establish a business tax credit for child care; and create incentives for improvements in quality.

- **S.1037, Creating Improved Delivery of Child Care: Affordable, Reliable, and Educational Act (also known as the CIDCARE Act), sponsored by Sens. Jim Jeffords (R-Vt.) and Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.).** Identical to H.R.2213 introduced in the House by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.). Title I increases the amount of the Dependent Care Tax Credit available when a family uses accredited care and makes the credit refundable so that working families who earn too little to pay income taxes would be eligible to get a refund check. Title II allows businesses to deduct 50 percent (subject to a dollar limit) of their contributions to employees' child care expenses from their corporate taxes. The bill also expands funds to strengthen the quality of child care and improve access to training opportunities for child care providers.

- **S.1309, the Early Childhood Development Act of 1997, introduced by Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Christopher Bond (R-Mo.).** The bill has three key provisions. The first provides grants to states for the creation of local collaboratives that would invest funds ($3.25 billion over five years) to improve the quality of care for children from birth to age 5. The second increases the Child Care and Development Block Grant by $3.25 billion over five years so that states can help families with children up to age 5 pay child care expenses. The third increases funds for Early Head Start and Head Start.

1998 congressional recesses

It's important for child advocates to visit their senators and representatives at least once a year and to write or call them and their staffs regularly. The best time to meet with policy makers is during recesses held throughout the year, according to CDF Director of Government Affairs Eileen Sweeney, because they are usually in their home states and districts at those times. (For tips on how to hold political leaders accountable, see the January 1997 *CDF Reports*.)

After reconvening in late January, Congress is scheduled to be in recess six times in 1998:

Senate	House
Feb. 13-23	**Feb. 16-23**
April 3-19	**April 2-20**
May 23-31	**May 25-29**
June 27-July 5	**June 26-July 13**
Aug. 1 or Aug. 8-Sept. 7	**Aug. 10-Sept. 8**
Oct. 9 (target)-Dec. 31	**Oct. 9 (target)-Dec. 31**

Because Congress will adjourn early in October, the earlier in the year advocates meet with their senators and representatives, the better, says Sweeney.

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Proposed federal child care legislation

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- **S.1029, the Quality Child Care and Loan Forgiveness Act, sponsored by Sens. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio) and Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.).** Would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to create a program of loan forgiveness for students who earn a degree in early childhood education and obtain full-time employment in the early child care profession.

- **S.1151, the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Act, also known as the CAMPUS Act, sponsored by Sens. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and Olympia Snowe (R-Maine).** Would make grants to community colleges, colleges, and universities for campus-based child care services for children of their low-income students.

- **S.19, the Working Families Child Care Act, sponsored by Sens. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and Tom Daschle (D-S.D.).** Would amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant to authorize approximately $10 billion over five years for grants to states. States could use their grants to provide child care help to low-income working families and set up child care facilities in regions where there are child care shortages.

- **S.548, the Child Care Expansion Act, sponsored by Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kansas).** Would establish a small business child care grant program to help states provide funds for the creation and operation of employer-sponsored child care and would increase the Dependent Care Tax Credit.

- **S.654, sponsored by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine).** Introduced in the House as H.R.2553 by Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.). Would give low-income families a refund check for 50 percent of their child care costs. As families' wages increase, the percentage refunded decreases.

- **S.882, the After-School Education and Safety Act of 1997, sponsored by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.).** Introduced in the House as H.R.2408 by Rep. Zoe Lofgren

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1998 state legislative sessions

State	Convenes	Adjourns	Carry-Over
Alabama	Jan. 13	April 27	
Alaska	Jan. 12	May 11	1997-1998
Arizona	Jan. 12	April 21	
Arkansas	No regular session		
California	Jan. 5	Aug. 31	1997-1998
Colorado	Jan. 7	May 6	
Connecticut	Feb. 4	May 6	
Delaware	Jan. 13	June 30	
Florida	March 3	May 1	
Georgia	Jan. 12	mid-March	1997-1998
Hawaii	Jan. 21	early May	1997-1998
Idaho	Jan. 12	late March	
Illinois	Jan. 14	Expected by May 22	1997-1998
Indiana	Jan. 12	March 15	
Iowa	Jan. 12	late April	1997-1998
Kansas	Jan. 12	April 11	1997-1998
Kentucky	Jan. 6	mid-April	
Louisiana	April 27	June 10	
Maine	Jan. 7	April 15	1997-1998
Maryland	Jan. 14	April 13	
Massachusetts	Jan. 7	Dec. 31	1997-1998
Michigan	Jan. 14	Dec. 31	1997-1998
Minnesota	Jan. 20	early April	1997-1998
Mississippi	Jan. 6	April 5	
Missouri	Jan. 7	mid-May	
Montana	No regular session		
Nebraska	Jan. 7	mid-April	1997-1998
Nevada	No regular session		
New Hampshire	Jan. 7	late May	1997-1998
New Jersey	Jan. 13	Dec. 31	1998-1999
New Mexico	Jan. 20	Feb. 19	
New York	Jan. 7	Jan. 6	1997-1998
North Carolina	May 11	July	1997-1998
North Dakota	No regular session		
Ohio	Jan. 6	Dec. 31	1997-1998
Oklahoma	Feb. 2	May 29	1997-1998
Oregon	No regular session		
Pennsylvania	Jan. 6	Nov. 30	1997-1998
Rhode Island	Jan. 6	mid-July	1997-1998
South Carolina	Jan. 13	June 4	1997-1998
South Dakota	Jan. 13	mid-March	
Tennessee	Jan. 13	late April	1997-1998
Texas	No regular session		
Utah	Jan. 19	March 4	
Vermont	Jan. 6	early May	1997-1998
Virginia	Jan. 14	March 14	1998-1999
Washington	Jan. 12	March 12	1997-1998
West Virginia	Jan. 14	March 14	
Wisconsin	Jan. 13	Expected on March 26	1997-1998
Wyoming	Feb. 16	March 13	

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures. On the World Wide Web at http://www.ncsl.org/programs/legman/about/sess98.htm.

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Inadequate child care: Statistics and solutions for advocates

When raising awareness about the need for quality, affordable child care, it's important that advocates back up their arguments with key facts about the dilemmas facing families. Here is a statistical snapshot of who needs child care and the problems parents face when looking for decent care for their children.

Every day, three out of five preschoolers are in child care.

• Children of working mothers enter care as young as 6 weeks of age. Some will be in care for as many as 50 hours a week until they reach school age.

Women work outside the home in the overwhelming majority of American families.

• Sixty-two percent of women with children under age 6 work, as do 77 percent of women with children ages 6 to 17.

Child care costs are unaffordable for many working families.

• About half of families with young children earn less than $35,000 per year. A family with both parents working full-time at minimum wage earns only $21,400 per year.

• Child care is a major household expense for these working families. Full-day child care easily costs between $4,000 and $10,000 per year, which is equal to what families may end up paying for tuition, room, and board at a public university. The following are average child care costs in six cities for *one* 3-year-old child; care for infants and toddlers costs even more.

Boston	$8,840
Boulder, Colo.	$6,240
Durham, N.C.	$4,630
Dallas	$4,210
Oakland, Calif.	$6,500
Minneapolis	$6,030

Child care shapes the way children think, learn, and behave for the rest of their lives.

• A recent report by the Carnegie Corporation confirmed that the quality of child care has a lasting impact on children's well-being and ability to learn. Children in poor-quality child care lag behind their peers in language and reading skills and display more aggression toward other children and adults.

Many American children are not getting good care.

• Six out of seven child care centers provide care that is mediocre to poor, according to a recent national study by a group of universities. One in eight centers provides care that could jeopardize children's safety and development. Equally alarming patterns occur in family-based care; a shocking one in three homes offering child care may be harmful, a study found.

• Major gaps exist in the basic health and safety standards for child care in many states, and even the standards that are in place are often weakly enforced. For example, in many states, care in smaller providers' homes is not inspected at all because licensing is not required, and more than half the states do not annually inspect homes that *are* licensed.

• Good quality child care is hard to find in a marketplace where child care teachers and providers sometimes earn less than bus drivers ($20,150), garbage collectors ($18,100), and bartenders ($14,450). A national wage study found that on average, child care workers earn just $12,058 per year (only slightly above minimum wage) and lack benefits or paid leave.

• Staff education and training are among the most critical elements in improving children's child care experiences. Even though many hairdressers and manicurists are required to attend 1,500 hours at an accredited school in order to obtain a license, 32 states do not require teachers to have *any* training whatsoever before they work in child care centers.

Infants and toddlers are particularly vulnerable.

• Almost half of babies who haven't reached their first birthday regularly spend their day in child care.

• A recent national study found that *almost half* of rooms in centers serving infants and toddlers provided such poor-quality care as to *jeopardize children's health, safety, and development*. Studies of home-based care have produced equally troubling results.

Scarcity of after-school programs leaves many children home alone.

• Nearly five million children ages 5 to 14 are home alone after school each week.

• Juvenile crime peaks between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., the after-school hours when many children are unsupervised.

• A 1990 study found that eighth-graders left home alone after school reported greater use of cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana than those who were in settings with adult supervision.

• Good after-school activities for children and teens can be hard to find in many communities. This problem is even more serious in low-income neighborhoods. For example, only

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Inadequate child care: Statistics and solutions for advocates

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one-third of schools in low-income neighborhoods offered before- and after-school programs in 1993, compared with 50 percent in more affluent neighborhoods.

Seven steps America can take to help working families find affordable, quality child care:

1. Resources to improve the quality of care and help parents find good options for their children should be expanded, and strong safety standards must be established and enforced for all centers and homes offering child care.

2. Child care help should be available to low-income families to prevent welfare dependency and enable parents to work. Federal, state, and local funds should also help moderate-income working families with their child care expenses so that they can better afford quality care.

3. Child care providers should be well-trained, earning family-supporting wages. Efforts must be made to increase the number of child care staff who are appropriately trained and compensated. Scholarship and loan forgiveness programs should be expanded to support careers in child development.

4. Structured after-school activities should be available in all communities.

5. Investments should be made to expand the supply of quality care for infants and toddlers and to strengthen and enrich existing programs.

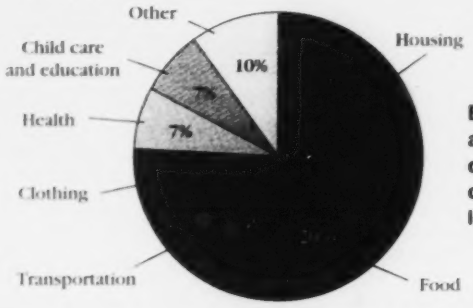
6. Employers should help their employees who need child care and should invest in improving the quality of child care in the communities where they operate.

7. The Family and Medical Leave Act should be expanded to cover more workplaces and employees in order to help working parents stay home with their children during the critical early months of life.

What it costs to raise a child

To raise a child to age 18:

- Single parent households with incomes of less than $34,700 will spend $104,400.
- Husband-wife households with incomes of less than $34,700 will spend $110,040.
- Husband-wife households with incomes of $34,700 to $58,300 will spend $149,820.
- Husband-wife households with incomes over $58,300 will spend $218,400.



Breakdown of estimated annual expenditures on a child by husband–wife couples with incomes of less than $34,700

Note: Chart percentages are rounded. Figures do not include the cost of college or effects of inflation.

Source: *Expenditures on Children by Families, 1996 Annual Report*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, Misc. Publication No. 1528-1996. For a free copy, write the center at 1120 20th Street NW, Suite 200 North Lobby, Washington, DC 20036.

Every day in America

3	young people under age 25 die from HIV infection.
6	children commit suicide.
13	children are homicide victims.
14	children are killed by firearms.
81	babies die.
144	babies are born at very low birthweight (less than 3 lbs., 4 oz.).
280	children are arrested for violent crimes.
443	babies are born to mothers who had late or no prenatal care.
781	babies are born at low birthweight (less than 5 lbs., 8 oz.).
1,403	babies are born to teen mothers.
1,827	babies are born without health insurance.
2,430	babies are born into poverty.
2,658	public school students are corporally punished.*
2,756	high school students drop out.*
3,436	babies are born to unmarried mothers.
5,753	children are arrested.
8,470	children are reported abused or neglected.
17,152	public school students are suspended.*

*Based on calculations per school day (180 days of seven hours each).

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Glossary Child care

Here are some terms that may be helpful as you work to improve child care:

Appropriation. The amount of money Congress provides annually for a specific federal program.

Authorization. Legislation that creates authority to operate a program but does not appropriate funding for the program.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). A federal program that guarantees nutritious meals and snacks for children through age 12 if they are enrolled in child care centers, family child care homes, before- and after-school programs, and Head Start. In Fiscal Year 1996, more than 2.5 million children were fed through CACFP.

Child care center. A nonresidential facility that typically serves 13 or more children.

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). (Also called the Child Care and Development Fund). The federal program that provides funds to help families pay for child care and to improve its quality and expand its availability.

Copayment. A payment or fee that families receiving child care subsidies must pay out of their own pockets. Very poor families often have no copayments.

Dependent Care Tax Credit. This federal credit helps families by allowing them to subtract a portion of their child care expenses from the income taxes they owe. The credit is on a sliding scale and lower income families receive slightly larger credits. However, many poor families do not benefit from the credit because it is not refundable. If the family has little or no income tax liability, it gets little or no benefit from the credit. In contrast, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is refundable, and low-income families receive a refund from the IRS if the amount of their EITC exceeds their tax liability.

Discretionary program. A federally funded program that is not an entitlement and must be funded annually through the appropriations process.

Early Head Start. Provides comprehensive early childhood services, including home visiting, child care, health care, and nutrition for low-income families and children from birth to age 3.

Entitlement. A guarantee that all individuals eligible under a law's rules will receive specified assistance if they apply. School lunches, Social Security, and Medicaid are examples of entitlement programs. Entitlement programs do not require annual appropriations.

Family child care provider. Care that is provided in a private residence other than a child's home.

Head Start. A federal program that provides early education, nutrition, health, and social services to prepare children, primarily those ages 3 and 4, in low-income families for school.

In-home caregiver. A person other than a parent or relative who provides child care in a child's home.

Mandatory spending. Legislation that authorizes funds to be appropriated from the Treasury without further action by Congress.

Matching funds. The amount a state or locality has to spend on child care services in order to receive certain federal child care funds.

Quality set-aside. A portion (currently 4 percent) of federal funding through the Child Care and Development Block Grant that states must use to improve the quality and expand the supply of child care.

Reimbursement rate. The rate at which states reimburse providers for serving children who receive child care subsidies. Basing the reimbursement rate on the market rate is considered essential to ensure that parents have a good choice of child care options and to ensure a stable supply of child care.

Relative care. Care that is provided by a relative other than a child's parents, in the child's or the relative's home.

Resource & Referral (R & R). Community agencies that help families find child care, offer consumer education, train and recruit providers, and provide other services to strengthen the quality of child care.

Subsidy. Assistance to help lower income families with child care costs.

Sliding-fee scale. A system where families pay a portion of child care costs or copayments based on their income levels. As their income rises, so does the amount the families pay out of pocket.

Parenting information on the Web

CDF's Parent Resource Network (PRN) provides access to on-line information geared specifically to parents. Topics include adoption and foster care, child care, education, health and safety, parenting education and skills, violence prevention in communities, and many others.

Visit the site and learn how to throw a baby safety shower or where to find free publications to help with caring for children.

The PRN is located at www.childrensdefense.org/prn.html.

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Readers' survey

Dear *CDF Reports* Reader:

This newsletter is designed to give you the information, contacts, strategies, and action steps you need to be an effective children's advocate. How well is it working for you?

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey so that the Children's Defense Fund can better help you help children in our 25th anniversary year and beyond. To show our appreciation for your response, we'll send you a free, colorful CDF window decal when we receive your completed survey.

I'm grateful for your support and help.

Sincerely,

Marian Wright Edelman
President, Children's Defense Fund

1. How would you describe yourself? (Check the *one* answer that is the closest.)

- ❑ Elected government official
- ❑ Government employee
- ❑ Paid or volunteer child advocate
- ❑ Academic/researcher
- ❑ Direct service provider (social service administrator, child care provider, doctor, social worker, lawyer, etc.)
- ❑ Other (Please specify) _____

2. Do you work for a: (Please check *one*.)

- ❑ University or college
- ❑ Nonprofit organization
- ❑ For-profit corporation
- ❑ Government agency
- ❑ Religious organization
- ❑ Other _____

3. How long have you been reading or subscribing to *CDF Reports*? (Please check *one*.)

- ❑ Less than one year
- ❑ One year
- ❑ Two to four years
- ❑ Four or more years

4. How many other people read some or all of your issue of *CDF Reports*? (Please check *one*.)

- ❑ None
- ❑ 1-4
- ❑ 5 or more

5. Do you access CDF's Web page on the Internet? (Please check *one*.)

- ❑ Never
- ❑ Weekly
- ❑ Monthly
- ❑ Other _____

6. Do you receive CDF e-mail update(s)? Yes____ No ____ Do you find them useful? Yes___ No ___ How do you use them? (Mark all that apply.)

- ❑ No action
- ❑ Referred others to the update(s) or forwarded to other e-mail addresses
- ❑ Phoned or wrote someone mentioned in the update(s)
- ❑ Used information in a speech, article, or grant proposal
- ❑ Contacted U.S. representative or senator(s)
- ❑ Contacted state or local official(s)
- ❑ Issued a press release or spoke to the media
- ❑ Involved my organization in an issue
- ❑ Got or tried to get other organization(s) involved in an issue
- ❑ Adopted or looked into adopting a strategy described in the update(s)
- ❑ Ordered or subscribed to a publication, or signed up for a conference mentioned in the update(s)

7. What kinds of actions have you taken as a result of reading *CDF Reports*? (Mark all that apply.)

- ❑ No action
- ❑ Referred others to article
- ❑ Phoned or wrote someone mentioned in the article(s)
- ❑ Used information in a speech, article, or grant proposal
- ❑ Contacted U.S. representative or senator(s)
- ❑ Contacted state or local official(s)
- ❑ Issued a press release or spoke to the media
- ❑ Involved my organization in an issue
- ❑ Got or tried to get other organization(s) involved in an issue
- ❑ Adopted or looked into adopting a model program or strategy described in *CDF Reports*
- ❑ Ordered or subscribed to a publication, or signed up for a conference mentioned in *CDF Reports*

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8. Rate the usefulness of the following *CDF Reports* features.

	Always read	Sometimes read	Hardly ever read	Never read
A Voice for Children	4	3	2	1
Special Report	4	3	2	1
CDF at Work	4	3	2	1
Of Note (publications and conferences)	4	3	2	1
Short Takes	4	3	2	1
One Step for Children	4	3	2	1
Necessary	4	3	2	1
Standing For Children	4	3	2	1
Media Tips/Money Talk/Field Strategies/Legal Issues	4	3	2	1

9. How useful to you is the coverage of the following? (Please circle answer for *each* type of story.)

	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
Child care	4	3	2	1
Child poverty/Welfare law	4	3	2	1
Health	4	3	2	1
Teen pregnancy prevention	4	3	2	1
Child welfare	4	3	2	1
Juvenile justice/Violence prevention	4	3	2	1
Model programs	4	3	2	1
Organizational strategies	4	3	2	1
Tips/Advice	4	3	2	1
Federal-level action	4	3	2	1
State and local action	4	3	2	1
Interviews	4	3	2	1

10. Please rate *CDF Reports* on the following.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Readability of layout and design	4	3	2	1
Clarity of writing	4	3	2	1
Completeness of information	4	3	2	1
Timeliness of information	4	3	2	1
Usefulness of information	4	3	2	1
Accuracy of information	4	3	2	1

11. Do you think that stories in *CDF Reports* provide: (please check *one*)

- ❑ Too much information
- ❑ The right amount of information
- ❑ Too little information

12. What one magazine or newsletter do you rely on most for information you need about children's issues?

_____

13. What is the most important issue that your current information sources are NOT providing you?

_____

14. Do you have any other suggestions or comments about *CDF Reports*?

_____

Thank you for completing this survey. Your opinion will help us make *CDF Reports* a more valuable resource. If you wish to remain anonymous, leave the following lines blank. If you would like to receive a free CDF window decal as a token of our thanks, please fill in your name and address.

❑ Yes, I would like to receive a free CDF window decal for completing this survey.

Name _____ Organization _____

Address _____ Work phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ Home phone _____

E-mail address _____

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Please return the readers' survey to:
David Spencer
CDF Reports Subscriptions
Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
or fax 202-662-3530

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Necessary

News from the Black Community Crusade for Children

Child care for Black and Hispanic families

Finding quality child care is a struggle for most families, but it's even harder for most Black and Hispanic working parents. Every day, two out of three Black preschoolers and about half of Hispanic preschoolers are in child care settings (compared with 62 percent of non-Hispanic Whites). Because predominantly Black and Hispanic communities often have fewer child care options and because Black and Hispanic working families, on average, have lower incomes than non-Hispanic White families, these parents sometimes face impossible choices.

"Child care is a critical issue for Black and Hispanic families," says Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) National Director Barbara Kelley-Sease. "They often face even greater difficulty than White parents in finding quality care in their neighborhoods that they can afford."

Each day, more than two million Black children and more than 1.3 million Hispanic children under age 6 spend some or all of their waking hours being cared for by someone other than their parents. Slightly more Black women work outside the home than non-Hispanic White women (64 percent versus 62 percent), although a smaller share of Hispanic women work outside the home (55 percent).

Child care is an even more important issue for low-income Black and Hispanic families in light of the 1996 welfare law that created Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Stringent new time limits and a requirement that all parents with children over age 6 work means that many Black and Hispanic parents are searching for child care.

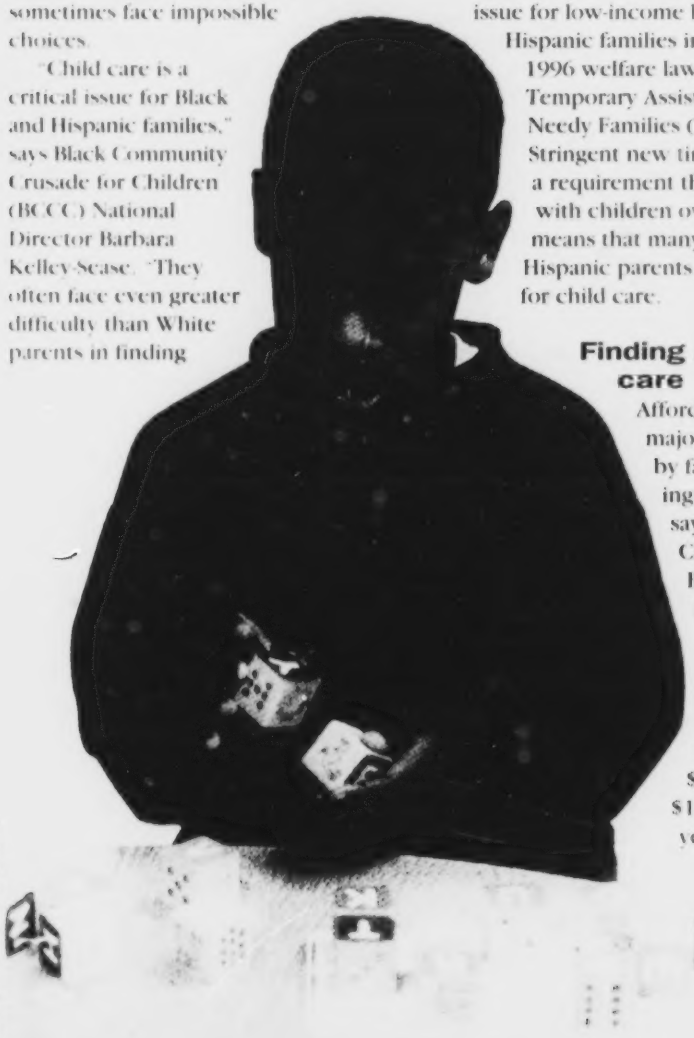

Photo © Hedda Sterne Collaborative

Finding affordable care

Affordability is a major hurdle faced by families seeking child care, says CDF Child Care Director Helen Blank. Full-day child care for one young child typically costs between $4,000 to $10,000 per year, and after-school care can cost $3,000 and up. Many hard-working families, including Black and Hispanic families, earn too little to be able to afford these costs. Here's why:

- About half of Hispanic families with children earn less than $25,000 per year, and half of Hispanic families with children under age 6 earn less than $22,500 per year.

"Child care is a critical issue for Black and Hispanic families," says Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) National Director Barbara Kelley-Sease.

- About half of Black families with children earn less than $23,000 per year, and half of Black families with children under age 6 earn less than $20,500 per year.

"A Black or Hispanic family earning $25,000 a year could easily spend one-quarter of its income to purchase child care for one child, and the average family has two children," says Blank. "Families simply cannot afford the cost of good quality care in addition to all of the other demands on their weekly or monthly budgets."

Locating quality care

Black and Hispanic families who manage to find affordable care too often find that it is mediocre or poor.

Research indicates that nurturing relationships in the early years are critical to child development. However, recent national studies have revealed serious child care problems. For example, more than half of Hispanic and Black children (59 percent and 53 percent, respectively) in families with working

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Child care for Black and Hispanic families

(Continued from page 11)

mothers are cared for in homes of non-relatives. Yet research on the quality of care provided for all families in these settings has yielded alarming results.

"A Black or Hispanic family earning $25,000 a year could easily spend one-quarter of its income to purchase child care for one child, and the average family has two children. Families simply cannot afford the cost of good quality care in addition to all of the other demands on their weekly or monthly budgets."

After-school care

Activities with positive, caring adult role models are imperative for school-age youths after school, on weekends, and during the summer (see November 1997 *CDF Reports*). These activities—including clubs, recreation centers, and tutoring—are crucial to keeping young people on track and out of trouble. Yet five million children ages 5 to 14 nationwide are left unsupervised or home alone after school each week, including hundreds of thousands of Hispanic and Black children.

But good after-school activities for children and teens can be hard to find in many communities. This problem may be even more serious for Black and Hispanic children, says CDF Assistant General Counsel Kim Wade, because about half of Black children and two out of five Hispanic children live in low-income neighborhoods, where after-school programs are in even shorter supply. For example, only one-third of schools in low-income neighborhoods offered before- and after-school programs in 1993, compared with 50 percent in more affluent neighborhoods.

Solving the crisis

Constructive after-school and summer activities such as the BCCC's Freedom Schools (see November *CDF Reports*) can help begin filling the gap for Black and Hispanic young people. Freedom Schools Director Julienne Johnson explains that communities need to provide safe havens through summer educational and enrichment activities for children who might otherwise be idle or left in unsafe neighborhoods.

Much more needs to be done for those in inner-city neighborhoods often plagued by crime or drugs, with few opportunities for recreation, tutoring, mentoring, and youth employment. Effective summer programs like the Freedom Schools keep children safe, promote lifelong learning, and provide positive role models.

Black and Hispanic children suffer disproportionately from many of the ills that a lack of quality child care produces. Successful early childhood education such as Head Start, good quality child care for school-age children, and after-school and summer programs are part of the solution to the child care dilemma for Black and Hispanic families.

Black families and child care: Key facts at a glance

Number of Black children under age 6 in child care	2,207,000
Percentage of Black mothers in the labor force	64 percent
Median income of Black families with children	approx. $23,000
Child care costs as a percentage of the median income of a Black family	17 percent to 43 percent

Hispanic families and child care: Key facts at a glance

Number of Hispanic children under age 6 in child care	1,305,000
Percentage of Hispanic mothers in the labor force	55 percent
Median income of Hispanic families with children	approx. $25,000
Child care costs as a percentage of the median income of a Hispanic family	16 percent to 40 percent

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Child care: America's challenge

(Continued from page 2)

writing and telephoning campaigns to their senators and representatives urging passage of legislation improving the quality and affordability of child care (see page 4 for information on current child care bills). On June 1, individuals can Stand For Quality Child Care by joining together in communities across the nation during Stand For Children™ Day '98.

Religious communities will pay special attention to quality child care and after-school activities during the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths Oct. 16-18. Congregations will hold special worship services, educational programs, and congregational activities to inspire people of faith to respond to children's needs through hands-on outreach and advocacy.

Advocates can also expand their knowledge of child care topics by taking part in two ongoing CDF-coordinated projects—the Child Watch Visitation Program and the Community Monitoring Project. The Child Watch Visitation Program moves executives, clergy, legislators, and other community leaders out of their offices and into the world of preschools and child care centers to see firsthand what is happening to children and families.

CDF's Community Monitoring Project helps child advocates collect and use local information to make a difference. For example, advocates can help child care agencies determine how many families are languishing on waiting lists or document what happens when families are unable to get reliable child care when they need it. Advocates can then use this information to persuade policy makers to expand child care initiatives.

Child advocates also can participate in CDF's Black Community Crusade for Children and its Student Leadership Network for Children, two projects that in 1998 are galvanizing support for high-quality, affordable child care. Anyone interested in the latest child care developments should subscribe to the new Child Care Advocacy E-Mail Network (see page 19).

By joining CDF's child care campaign, advocates can help ensure that America's children are in safe and nurturing environments while their parents are at work, says Blank.

"Improving the quality and affordability of child care is a challenge that everyone must meet together—our families, businesses, schools, communities, houses of worship, and federal, state, and local governments. Our children and our future depend on it."

For more information about getting involved in CDF's 1998 child care campaign or locating resources in your state, call the Child Care Division at 202-662-3544 or visit CDF's Web site, http://www.childrensdefense.org.

Proposed federal child care legislation

(Continued from page 5)

(D-Calif.). Would award states grants for after-school education and child safety programs, including mentoring, technology training, job skills preparation activities, and academic assistance.

- **S.926, the Working Family Child Care Tax Relief Act of 1997, sponsored by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa).** Would increase the child care and Dependent Care Tax Credit low-income families receive and give it to families with no other income tax liability in the form of a refund check.

- **S.956, the Welfare-to-Work Micro-Loan Pilot Program Act of 1997, sponsored by Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.).** Would amend the Small Business Act to help families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families pay for child care so that they can work.

- **S.978, the Affordable Child Care Act, sponsored by Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.).** Would allow a corporate tax credit, as part of the general business credit, for employers who provide qualified child care centers for their employees' children.

- **S.1490, the Quality Child Care for Federal Employees Act, sponsored by Sen. James Jeffords (R-Vt.).** Identical to H.R.2982 introduced in the House by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.). Would require child care centers operating in federal facilities to comply with the appropriate state and local licensing requirements and meet the same level of health and safety standards required of other child care centers in the areas they serve.

In the House

- **H.R.315, the Child Care Tax Credit Reform Act of 1997, sponsored by Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-N.Y.).** Would increase the amount of employer-related expenses allowed under the Dependent Care Tax Credit.

- **H.R.899, sponsored by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.).** Identical to the Working Families Child Care Act by Sen. Christopher Dodd. See Senate discussion.

- **H.R.988, the Child Care Availability Incentive Act, sponsored by Rep. Deborah Pryce (R-Ohio).** Would allow a tax credit for employers who provide qualified child care centers for their employees' children.

- **H.R.1809, sponsored by Rep. Jon Fox (R-Pa.).** Would allow a tax credit, as part of the general business credit, for employers providing qualified child care centers for their employees' use.

- **H.R.1615, sponsored by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.).** Would prohibit states from penalizing single parents with children under age 11 for failing to meet TANF work requirements when the parent cannot find suitable child care.

- **H.R.1706, the Child Care Infrastructure Act of 1997, sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.).** Identical to S.82 introduced in the Senate by Sen. Herbert Kohl (D-Wis.). See Senate discussion.

- **H.R.2213, Creating Improved Delivery of Child Care: Affordable, Reliable, and Educational Act (the CIDCARE Act), sponsored by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.).** Identical to S.1037 introduced by Sen. Jim Jeffords (D-Vt.). See Senate discussion.

(See page 14)

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Proposed federal child care legislation
(Continued from page 13)

• **H.R.2399, Family Investment Package, sponsored by Rep. Eva Clayton (D-N.C.).** Would increase the Child Care Development Block Grant for child care over the next five years for low-income working families. Would authorize additional appropriations for geographic areas with child care supply problems.

• **H.R.2408, After-School Education and Safety Act of 1997, sponsored by Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.).** Introduced in the Senate as S.882 by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.). See Senate discussion.

• **H.R.2452, Parents as Teachers Act of 1997, sponsored by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.).** Would make grants to counties to help parents receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families receive training in early childhood development and education so that they can work at child care centers.

• **H.R.2553, sponsored by Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.).** Introduced in the Senate as S.654 by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine). See Senate discussion.

• **H.R.2713, sponsored by Rep. Rosa De Lauro (D-Conn.) and Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.).** Would provide $4.25 billion in grants to states over five years to: improve the quality of child care; improve licensing standards of child care providers; improve enforcement of licensing standards; boost caregivers' salaries; support ongoing and advanced training for caregivers; improve and expand the availability of resource and referral services; make child care more affordable; expand support services to parents with young children; and improve coordination of existing federal and state programs.

• **H.R.2719, Child Care Public-Private Partnership Act of 1997, sponsored by Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.).** Would establish an incentive program for businesses that provide child care through public-private partnerships.

• **H.R.2778, Family Dependent Care Affordability Act of 1997, sponsored by Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.).** Would increase the Dependent Care Tax Credit and make the credit refundable.

• **H.R.2861, Welfare to Work Act of 1997, sponsored by Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.).** Would amend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families to increase child care funding, require states to provide child care for families with children under age 6, and sanction states that do not provide care for TANF families with children under age 6.

• **H.R.2872, sponsored by Rep. Jon Fox (R-Pa.).** Would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a tax credit, as part of the general business credit, for employers who provide qualified child care for their employees' children.

• **H.R.2982, Quality Child Care for Federal Employees Act, sponsored by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.).** Introduced in the Senate as S.1490 by Sen. Jim Jeffords (R-Vt.). See Senate discussion.

• **H.R.2839, Quality Child Care for Federal Employees Act, sponsored by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.).** Similar to H.R.2982 and S.1490 but adds two additional provisions. The bill states that by Oct. 1, 2001, all child care provided through federal funding must be accredited. It also allows community development block grant funds to be used to assist child care centers in attaining accreditation.

• **H.R.3028, Healthy and Smoke-Free Children Act, sponsored by Rep. Rosa De Lauro (D-N.Y.).** Identical to S.1492 introduced in the Senate by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.). See Senate discussion.

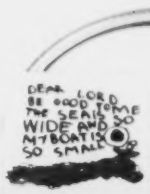
Moments in America for children

Every 1 second	a public school student is suspended.*
Every 9 seconds	a public school student is corporally punished.*
Every 9 seconds	a high school student drops out.*
Every 10 seconds	a child is reported abused or neglected.
Every 15 seconds	a child is arrested.
Every 25 seconds	a baby is born to an unmarried mother.
Every 36 seconds	a baby is born into poverty.
Every 47 seconds	a baby is born without health insurance.
Every 1 minute	a baby is born to a teen mother.
Every 2 minutes	a baby is born at low birthweight (less than 5 lbs., 8 oz.).
Every 3 minutes	a baby is born to a mother who received late or no prenatal care.
Every 5 minutes	a child is arrested for a violent crime.
Every 10 minutes	a baby is born at very low birthweight (less than 3 lbs., 4 oz.).
Every 18 minutes	a baby dies.
Every 2 hours	a child is killed by a firearm.
Every 2 hours	a child is a homicide victim.
Every 4 hours	a child commits suicide.
Every 8 hours	a young person under age 25 dies from HIV infection.

*Based on calculations per school day (180 days of seven hours each).

Order Now!

Help celebrate CDF's 25 years of working for children



Children's Defense Fund 25 Years
LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND.

Throughout 1998, CDF is looking back at what the children's movement has accomplished over the past 25 years while reaching forward to help even more children in the future. Join us now by ordering new 25th anniversary merchandise!

25th Anniversary "Quilt" Posters
Photographs of two of master quilter Adrienne Yorinks's breathtaking works capture the whimsy of childhood and the spirit of CDF and the children's movement. In muted tones sure to fit any decor. Guaranteed to become conversation pieces wherever they appear! Four colors. 24" x 36". Select from two exquisite designs. Each $16.

25th Anniversary Logo T-Shirt
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Be confident that you do not stand alone: we all stand together. He will make of them towering oak trees of hope in whose shade you can play and laugh and live and grow.

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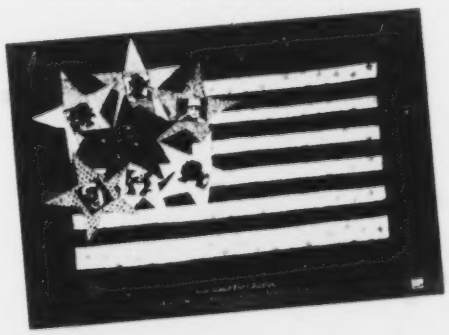

25th Anniversary Logo Button. $1

25th Anniversary Logo Paperweight
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25th Anniversary Commemorative Print: A Remarkable Collector's Item from a Renowned Artist

Forward Together, 1997, a signed and numbered, limited edition silk-screen print on paper from Jacob Lawrence's original gouache on paper painting *Through Forests, Through Rivers, Up Mountains*, 1967, tells the story of Harriet Tubman and her quest to bring her people to freedom.

From Jacob Lawrence's "Harriet and the Promised Land" series, *Forward Together* uses approximately 60 colors in a visual narration of Harriet Tubman's message and vision. Limited quantity available. Prints measures 25" x 40" and come with certification of authenticity. $3,105, including delivery and insurance.

TO ORDER, PLEASE CALL CDF PUBLICATIONS, 202-662-3652

Most recent data on child population, child poverty, food stamps, child support collection, health insurance coverage, immunization, abuse and neglect, teen births, and firearm deaths

	Estimated Child Population (Under age 18)		Child Poverty		Estimated Number of Children Receiving Food Stamps*	Percent of Child Support Enforcement Cases with Collection
	Number (1996)	Percent of State Population (1996)	Number Poor (1989)	Percent Poor (1989)	(FY 1997)	(FY 1995)
Alabama	1,076,436	25.2%	253,636	24.2%	273,000	21.2%
Alaska	184,387	30.4	19,284	11.4	27,000	17.1
Arizona	1,150,186	26.0	212,001	22.0	233,000	11.7
Arkansas	659,448	26.3	155,399	25.3	136,000	25.9
California	8,866,413	27.8	1,380,275	18.2	2,042,000	13.9
Colorado	997,938	26.1	129,565	15.3	125,000	15.0
Connecticut	797,950	24.1	79,020	10.7	107,000	16.2
Delaware	176,015	24.3	19,256	12.0	30,000	27.9
District of Columbia	109,559	20.2	28,610	25.5	48,000	10.5
Florida	3,423,067	23.8	525,446	18.7	715,000	15.7
Georgia	1,952,456	26.6	343,068	20.1	422,000	18.9
Hawaii	306,523	25.9	31,944	11.6	53,000	24.9
Idaho	348,509	29.3	49,159	16.2	40,000	29.3
Illinois	3,155,905	26.6	495,505	17.0	545,000	10.8
Indiana	1,498,524	25.7	203,791	14.2	188,000	9.8
Iowa	719,339	25.2	101,661	14.3	84,000	21.4
Kansas	687,314	26.7	93,066	14.3	88,000	34.2
Kentucky	968,660	24.9	234,012	24.8	212,000	16.4
Louisiana	1,233,455	28.4	380,942	31.4	362,000	13.5
Maine	299,519	24.1	41,897	13.8	51,000	35.6
Maryland	1,286,190	25.4	128,523	11.3	200,000	23.0
Massachusetts	1,421,929	23.3	176,221	13.2	190,000	26.8
Michigan	2,537,014	26.4	450,426	18.6	460,000	15.4
Minnesota	1,247,008	26.8	146,386	12.7	152,000	40.4
Mississippi	756,134	27.8	248,705	33.6	220,000	12.7
Missouri	1,394,199	26.0	230,058	17.7	276,000	18.4
Montana	232,751	26.5	44,706	20.5	37,000	20.6
Nebraska	442,186	26.8	58,474	13.8	52,000	19.1
Nevada	416,750	26.0	38,232	13.3	52,000	21.7
New Hampshire	295,866	25.5	20,440	7.4	27,000	35.2
New Jersey	1,986,972	24.9	200,726	11.3	282,000	24.1
New Mexico	501,233	29.3	122,260	27.8	125,000	15.9
New York	4,540,534	25.0	799,531	19.1	964,000	15.0
North Carolina	1,833,617	25.0	272,923	17.2	304,000	22.1
North Dakota	168,643	26.2	29,732	17.1	17,000	25.0
Ohio	2,847,841	25.5	493,206	17.8	488,000	28.0
Oklahoma	880,796	26.7	179,283	21.7	164,000	18.4
Oregon	808,406	25.2	111,629	15.8	131,000	19.3
Pennsylvania	2,894,676	24.0	432,227	15.7	513,000	30.8
Rhode Island	235,283	23.8	30,842	13.8	48,000	12.6
South Carolina	937,765	25.4	190,873	21.0	191,000	26.0
South Dakota	204,156	27.9	39,896	20.4	24,000	32.8
Tennessee	1,322,161	24.9	251,529	21.0	284,000	11.2
Texas	5,452,277	28.5	1,159,710	24.3	1,320,000	19.4
Utah	678,803	33.9	78,041	12.5	58,000	19.5
Vermont	146,648	24.9	17,020	12.0	27,000	34.8
Virginia	1,631,836	24.4	197,382	13.3	261,000	37.6
Washington	1,436,804	26.0	179,272	14.5	247,000	33.3
West Virginia	421,933	23.1	115,073	26.2	124,000	24.3
Wisconsin	1,343,034	26.0	188,863	14.9	159,000	38.3
Wyoming	133,275	27.7	19,190	14.4	17,000	12.2
United States	**69,048,323**	**26.0**	**11,428,916**	**18.3**	**13,195,000**	**19.4**

* Numbers rounded to the nearest thousand; state estimates may not add to national estimate because of rounding.

* Children under 19 years of age who have no form of health insurance throughout the year. The United States figure is for 1996; the state figures are averages for 1994, 1995, and 1996. The sum of the state numbers will not add to the national total because of this averaging.

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	Children Without Health Insurance (Estimated)*		Estimated Percent of Young Children Fully Immunized*	Reported Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect†	Number of Births to Teens°	Number of Firearm Deaths Among Children and Teens°
	Number (1994-1996)	Percent (1994-1996)	(1996)	(1995)	(1995)	(1995)
Alabama	179,000	15.1%	75%	38,559	11,181	119
Alaska	22,000	10.8	69	9,898	1,151	19
Arizona	281,000	22.4	70	43,762	10,974	140
Arkansas	139,000	19.3	72	28,563	6,901	85
California	1,804,000	18.7	76	458,262	68,409	843
Colorado	161,000	14.9	76	52,517	6,598	63
Connecticut	90,000	10.6	87	38,701	3,803	29
Delaware	24,000	12.7	80	9,659	1,352	10
District of Columbia	19,000	15.7	78	12,341	1,471	75
Florida	652,000	17.5	--	170,727	25,826	204
Georgia	329,000	15.4	80	95,925	18,322	154
Hawaii	22,000	6.7	77	5,601	1,882	3
Idaho	51,000	13.4	66	35,968	2,531	29
Illinois	332,000	9.8	75	132,570	24,043	320
Indiana	180,000	11.2	70	67,390	12,155	117
Iowa	88,000	11.4	80	32,801	4,067	28
Kansas	76,000	10.3	73	30,552	4,876	49
Kentucky	160,000	15.0	76	63,313	9,005	59
Louisiana	277,000	20.3	79	45,326	12,559	174
Maine	45,000	14.0	85	8,291	1,426	6
Maryland	158,000	11.3	78	42,352	7,437	143
Massachusetts	141,000	9.3	86	56,175	6,116	40
Michigan	220,000	8.1	74	139,289	16,844	202
Minnesota	94,000	7.1	83	26,213	5,327	54
Mississippi	156,000	18.6	79	27,224	9,182	101
Missouri	184,000	12.3	74	85,927	10,496	139
Montana	27,000	10.7	--	13,528	1,407	20
Nebraska	45,000	9.4	80	16,109	2,321	24
Nevada	86,000	19.1	70	20,623	3,423	44
New Hampshire	32,000	10.2	83	7,778	1,108	10
New Jersey	295,000	13.9	--	63,684	9,384	55
New Mexico	126,000	22.9	79	28,034	4,954	37
New York	680,000	13.9	79	211,445	25,364	234
North Carolina	284,000	14.2	77	98,690	15,473	150
North Dakota	14,000	7.9	81	7,673	811	12
Ohio	309,000	10.1	77	156,975	21,086	132
Oklahoma	201,000	20.8	73	39,831	7,800	74
Oregon	123,000	14.0	70	43,107	5,553	57
Pennsylvania	288,000	9.3	79	24,109	16,365	159
Rhode Island	24,000	9.7	85	14,492	1,291	6
South Carolina	174,000	16.8	84	43,503	8,801	66
South Dakota	19,000	8.5	80	9,063	1,190	13
Tennessee	219,000	15.1	77	36,266	12,392	137
Texas	1,440,000	24.1	72	158,352	53,507	462
Utah	75,000	10.2	63	26,447	4,279	54
Vermont	11,000	7.0	85	2,618	557	6
Virginia	197,000	11.0	--	55,553	10,536	106
Washington	171,000	11.0	78	58,926	8,882	75
West Virginia	47,000	10.2	71	19,544	3,636	28
Wisconsin	92,000	6.4	76	44,661	7,112	74
Wyoming	20,000	13.4	--		949	14
United States	**11,300,000**	**15.1**	**77**	**2,959,237**	**512,115**	**5,254**

* Children ages 19-35 months during 1996; full immunization is defined as four doses of DPT, three or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, one or more doses of any measles-containing vaccine, and three or more doses of Hib vaccine.

† State-to-state comparisons should not be made because of differences in definitions of *child*, differences in data collection periods, and differences in how duplicate reports are handled.

° Persons under age 20.

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Key facts about U.S. children

In 1997, there were approximately 70 million children in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Child poverty

20.5 percent of all children under age 18 are poor.
11.1 percent of White children are poor.
39.9 percent of Black children are poor.
40.3 percent of Hispanic children are poor.
19.5 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander children are poor.
22.7 percent of children under age 6 are poor.
49.3 percent of children in mother-only families are poor.

Of all poor children:
62.5 percent are White.
31.2 percent are Black.
68.8 percent are in working families.

Families

68.7 percent of children live in two-parent families.
27.0 percent of children live in one-parent families.
4.3 percent of children do not live with a parent.

Child care

An estimated 13 million children under age 6 with working parents are in child care.
62 percent of women with children under age 6 are in the labor force, as are 77 percent of women with children ages 6 to 17.
Nearly five million children ages 5 to 14 are home alone after school each week.
Only approximately two out of five 3- and 4-year-olds eligible for Head Start's comprehensive services were served in 1997.

Infant mortality rates

29,583 babies died in 1995—a rate of 7.6 for every 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate for Black babies (15.1 for every 1,000 live births) is decreasing but remains more than twice that for White babies (6.3 for every 1,000 live births).

Low birthweight

7.3 percent of babies were born at low birthweight (weighing less than 5 lbs., 8 oz.) in 1995.

Prenatal care

In 1995, 4.2 percent of babies were born to mothers who did not receive prenatal care or did not receive it until their last trimester.

Insurance

11.3 million children through age 18 (about 15.1 percent) had no form of health insurance throughout 1996.
Nine out of 10 uninsured children have parents who work, and six out of 10 have parents who work full time during the entire year.

Immunization

23 percent of children between 19 and 35 months of age are not fully vaccinated against dangerous but preventable diseases.

Gun violence

5,254 American children and teens from birth to age 19 died from gunfire in 1995.
3,249 children age 19 and under were victims of firearm homicides in 1995.
1,890 children age 19 and under died in firearm suicides and accidents in 1995.

Hunger

4 million children under age 12 go hungry for some part of each month, according to the Food Research and Action Center.
13.2 million children received food stamps in Fiscal Year 1997. Children make up more than half of food stamp recipients.
14.7 million children received free or reduced-price school lunches in 1997. Only a portion of these children received subsidized school breakfasts, and even fewer received summer meals.
7.2 million infants, children, and pregnant women received WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) benefits in Fiscal Year 1997.

Education

14.2 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds in 1996 had not completed high school.
In 1996, only 28.1 percent of White 25- to 29-year-olds had completed four years of college; only 14.6 percent of Blacks and 10.0 percent of Hispanics in this age group had completed college.

Teen parents

512,115 babies were born to teenage mothers in 1995, a rate of 56.8 births for every 1,000 15- to 19-year-old girls.

Abuse and neglect

3.1 million children were reported abused or neglected in 1996; nearly one million cases were confirmed.
An estimated 1,046 children die from abuse and neglect each year.
An estimated 502,000 children were in foster care in 1996.

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CDF resources

The following resources, published or distributed by CDF, can be ordered from CDF Publications, 25 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, 202-662-3652, or via fax at 202-662-3510. Orders under $25 must be prepaid.

General

The State of America's Children Yearbook. CDF's annual, comprehensive resource on developments and data concerning children and families (1998 edition available in March). Fully indexed. $14.95.

Stand For Children: A Parent's Guide to Child Advocacy. How to advocate for your own children and for all children. 36 pp., 1996. ISBN: 1-881985-05-9. $4.95.

30 Simple Things Parents Can Do to Help Keep Children Safe from Violence. Ideas to help parents protect their children at home and in the community. 20 pp., 1995. $2.50.

Rescuing the American Dream: Halting the Economic Freefall of Today's Young Families with Children. The crisis facing families headed by parents under age 30. 53 pp., 1997. ISBN: 1-881985-14-8. $9.95.

Guide My Feet: Prayers and Meditations on Loving and Working for Children. Compilation of prayers and inspiring words from CDF President Marian Wright Edelman. 210 pp., 1995. From Beacon Press. ISBN: 0-8070-2308-6. $17.95.

Welcome the Child: A Child Advocacy Guide for Churches. For clergy, staff, and everyone involved in children's ministries, Christian education, worship and music, mission and outreach, and social advocacy. 168 pp., 1994. ISBN: 0-377-00266-6. $9.95.

An Advocate's Guide to the Summer Food Service Program. How to get summer feeding sites in your community and combine food service with recreational or academic activities. 35 pp., 1994. ISBN: 1-881985-07-5. $4.95.

An Advocate's Guide to Using Data. How to select, analyze, and present data effectively. 20 pp., 1990. ISBN: 0-938008-80-3. $4.95.

Child Care

State Child Care and Early Education Developments: 1997. A handy guide with information about numerous changes affecting the affordability of child care for families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and for lower income working families. Focuses also on the quality and supply of child care in the states and features an update on various state prekindergarten initiatives. About 77 pp., 1997. $5.95.

Head Start: Helping Families Move from Welfare to Work. Focuses on the efforts of Head Start programs to help parents gain the confidence and skills needed to move successfully from welfare to work. Contains profiles of individual programs and reports on stumbling blocks and problems along the way. 35 pp., 1998. $3.95.

Key Facts About Child Care and Early Education: A Briefing Book. Basic facts about child care, Head Start, and early education with state-specific information. 150 pp., 1997. $7.95.

Helping Parents Work and Children Succeed: A Guide to Child Care and the 1996 Welfare Act. A detailed description of child care provisions in the 1996 welfare law and key implementation issues. 86 pp., 1997. $5.95.

Who Cares? State Commitment to Child Care and Early Education. Examines state funding for child care and early education services. 120 pp., 1996. $5.95.

Working with State and Local Elected Officials: A Guide for Early Care and Education Advocates. A detailed guide for child care advocates and others interested in influencing state and local policies for children. 30 pp., 1996. $3.95.

Working Together for Children: Head Start and Child Care Partnerships. How Head Start and child care programs can work together to improve care for children. 56 pp., 1996. $5.95.

How Safe? The Status of State Efforts to Protect Children in Child Care. A survey of health, safety, group size, and parent access requirements. 56 pp., 1995. $5.95.

First Steps, Promising Futures: State Prekindergarten Initiatives in the Early 1990s. Results of a CDF survey of state initiatives for the care of prekindergarten-age children, examining both separate state models and supplements for existing federal programs. 221 pp., 1995. $7.95.

Protecting Our Children: State and Federal Policies for Exempt Child Care Settings. How states are protecting the health and safety of children in informal child care settings receiving federal funds. 92 pp., 1994. $5.95.

Promoting Access to Quality Child Care: Critical Steps in Conducting Market Rate Surveys and Establishing Rate Policies. Useful technical information for policy makers, child care providers, and advocates who are working to establish rate policies in their states. 91 pp., 1994. $5.95.

Freedom School Reading-Based Curriculum Guide. Curriculum guide for summer programs to build children's academic skills and self-esteem, developed by CDF's Black Community Crusade for Children. 176 pp., 1996. $30.

Join the Child Care E-Mail Advocacy Network

Now you can receive important information about the 1998 child care campaign via e-mail.

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to **majordomo@automailer.com** with the following command in the body of the message:

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One step for children

Urge members of Congress to pass a comprehensive child care package in 1998.

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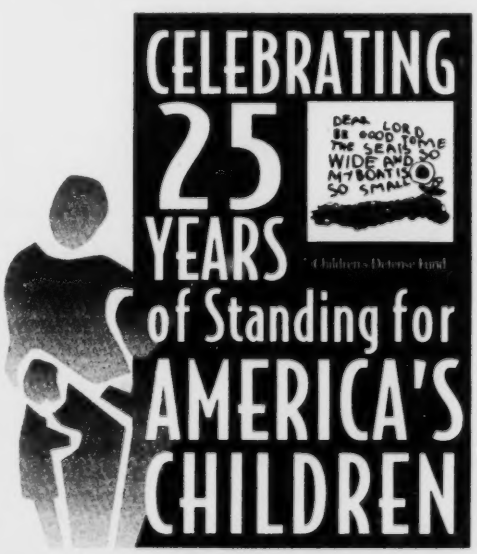

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CDF Reports

Marian Wright Edelman,
President

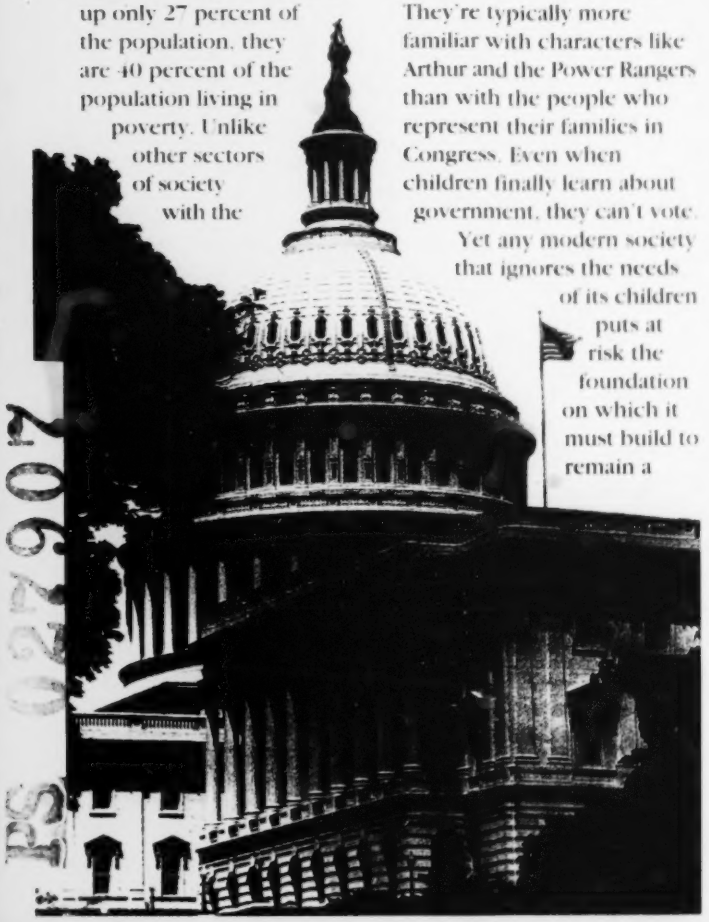
February 1998
Volume 19, Number 2

CDF's nonpartisan congressional voting record for 1997

Children are the future of this country. Although they make up only 27 percent of the population, they are 40 percent of the population living in poverty. Unlike other sectors of society with the resources to band together and organize for change, children are largely silent. They're typically more familiar with characters like Arthur and the Power Rangers than with the people who represent their families in Congress. Even when children finally learn about government, they can't vote.

Yet any modern society that ignores the needs of its children puts at risk the foundation on which it must build to remain a competitive and innovative world leader. How well leaders protect children is a litmus test for how well they also safeguard the stability of our nation.

CDF's annual nonpartisan congressional voting record reports on how members of Congress voted over the past year on measures protecting children — advancing children's health, safety, education, nutrition, and their family's economic security — as well as those harming children. Because the federal budget process sets the parameters for funding of children's programs, CDF's voting record report stresses a number of budget bills that often drive new initiatives or provide additional resources to help address the needs of children.



Landmark children's health insurance law

In 1997, Congress approved several initiatives that will improve the lives of children. The biggest triumph was legislation passed in July to create a new State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). It provides states with $48 billion over 10 years to insure children in low-income families. The new law has the potential to cover more than half of America's 11 million uninsured children. Who are they? Nine out of 10 live in

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1997 congressional voting record

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families with working parents; seven out of 10 are White; and, six out of 10 live in two-parent families. With private health coverage for children eroding by an estimated 1.2 million children a year, children are the most likely individuals to be uninsured today.

CHIP is designed to help children without health insurance who live in families earning too much money to qualify for Medicaid but not enough money to purchase private health coverage. If every state aggressively pursues this opportunity to give uninsured children health coverage, more of them will enter school ready to learn and will grow up to be healthy.

There were several key votes in Congress to address the needs of uninsured children, including those with special health needs. It is now up to state legislatures and governors to determine whether they will insure more children and what the eligibility levels and the range of benefits will be.

Other key votes

Congress restored Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to legal immigrants, including children with disabilities, who had been cut the year before as part of the 1996 welfare law. Congress reauthorized the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to ensure that all children have access to public education and passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act to promote safety and permanent families for children.

Congress increased funds for teen anti-smoking programs, increased funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) for poor pregnant women and women with young children, and approved increases in funding for Head Start, Early Head Start, and child care as part of the 1998 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

Meanwhile, there were some votes on bills that would hurt children if they become law. The House passed a juvenile crime bill that invests in punishment and prison construction for children rather than in more cost-effective and proven programs that prevent children from getting into trouble in the first place. The legislation also does nothing to prevent gun violence, which is at the center of serious crime by youth today. In 1998, the Senate will consider its version of this bill, which may harm children even more by gutting the requirement that children not be incarcerated with adults.

Several amendments to improve the lives of children did not pass, including: efforts to restore food stamps to legal immigrant children; school construction funds to repair and renovate public elementary and secondary schools in poor condition; and rent limits for families in public housing.

Children who are hungry, who learn in schools where the walls are literally crumbling around them, or who live in housing that consumes more than a third of their family's income, are facing problems that are solvable. Congress, the states, and individual communities can work together to tear down these barriers that prevent children from reaching their fullest potential.

Making a difference

Time and time again in 1997, advocates for children made the difference both in Washington and in state capitals. On June 1, 1997, one year after nearly 300,000 people converged at the Lincoln Memorial to Stand For Children, hundreds of thousands in more than 700 local events in all 50 states again came together to Stand For Children. They stood for healthy children and played an important role in garnering support for the new $48 billion in child health grants that will go to the states over the next 10 years.

(See page 3)

Where America stands

Among industrialized countries, the United States ranks:

1st	in gross domestic product
1st	in the number of millionaires and billionaires
1st	in health technology
1st	in military technology
1st	in military exports
1st	in defense spending
10th	in eighth-grade science scores
16th	in living standards among the poorest one-fifth of children
17th	in rates of low-birthweight births
18th	in the income gap between rich and poor children
21st	in eighth-grade math scores
Last	in protecting our children against gun violence

Compared with children in 25 other industrialized countries combined, U.S. children under age 15 are:

12	times more likely to die from gunfire
16	times more likely to be murdered by a gun
11	times more likely to commit suicide with a gun
9	times more likely to die in a firearm accident

Source: *The State of America's Children Yearbook 1998.*

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1997 congressional voting record

(Continued from page 2)

What 1997 meant for child health, 1998 must mean for quality child care. Thirteen million children under age 6 in working families are in child care each day. At least 5 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are home alone after school. Today, more than 60 percent of mothers are in the labor force — some 77 percent of mothers with school-age children and over half of mothers with preschoolers. Most women are employed out of economic necessity, with one-half providing half or more of family income.

Child care today is hard for parents to find, hard for parents to afford, and often of dubious quality. In fact, states have found that a large number of child care centers as well as family child care providers offer such poor quality programs that they may actually harm children's development.

Parents need good, affordable choices. A recent *Parents* magazine survey reported that over half of parents were not satisfied with the care their children receive. Full-day child care costs between $4,000 and $10,000 annually per child. The cost for just one child, much less two or three, is beyond the reach of many working parents with young children, half of whom earn $35,000 or less a year.

Taking a stand for child care

CDF is standing for quality, affordable child care in 1998. Parents need reliable, affordable child care that allows them to feel safe and secure about their children, so they can stay on the job earning wages that support their families. The youngest children need care that will maximize their early brain development. Preschool children need the care that will help them go to school ready to learn and succeed in life. Older children need places to go that keep them away from trouble, keep them safe, and help them do well in school.

The lack of high-quality child care hinders their academic success and limits the ability of their parents to be productive workers. After-school care is critical since statistics show that juvenile crime peaks between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., when unsupervised school-age children are more likely to engage in risky activities.

In 1998, America is taking a stand for child care. The Administration has proposed a significant child care initiative providing $22 billion in new help to families. Republicans and Democrats in both the House and the Senate have introduced more than 40 child care bills. Now it's time for Congress to push partisanship aside to make quality child care the top priority.

How we compile this voting record

Each year, CDF compiles a nonpartisan congressional voting record to show how each member of Congress voted and to help parents, children's advocates, and others know where their lawmakers stand on important child and family concerns—and how best to urge those elected officials to stand for children.

We chose the most crucial nine House votes and 11 Senate votes from among the many votes affecting children and families in 1997. We applaud the 44 senators and 172 representatives who scored 78 or higher, and hope you will thank them and urge their continued leadership for children. We hope you will educate and encourage the 51 senators and 232 representatives who scored under 60 to be more responsive to the needs of children and families.

The House and Senate have very different rules for considering amendments to a bill. In the House, a small committee controlled by the majority party typically decides which bills will be considered and which, if any, amendments will be debated and voted upon.

In the Senate, there generally is a far broader opportunity to offer amendments since any member can offer any amendment on any subject to any bill. For a measure to be included in this voting record, there had to be a recorded vote. Sometimes, when there is fairly broad agreement on a bill, the House or Senate will pass the bill on a "voice vote" or, in some cases, by "unanimous consent." When this occurs, it is not possible to know how each member voted.

Sometimes the list includes a vote on an issue in one chamber of Congress

(See page 9)

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Key 1997 Senate votes

1. Balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution

(S.J.Res.1)

The amendment would change the Constitution to require that the federal budget be balanced every year. While we all agree on the need to bring the federal budget into balance, this amendment did not allow for spending flexibility in times of economic downturn and natural disaster, when children and families may need temporary assistance. Because a large portion of the budget was exempt from any budget cuts under this amendment, the brunt of deficit reduction would have fallen on programs to protect children. Two-thirds of the Senate, or 67 votes, are needed for passage of a constitutional amendment in the Senate. It failed, 66-34. (March 4, 1997)

CDF's position was to vote against. (N)

2. Increase tobacco tax to pay for health insurance for uninsured children

(S.Con.Res.27)

Ten million children in the United States are uninsured. Nine out of 10 of these children have parents who work, according to the Census Bureau. More than three in five live in two-parent families. Millions of parents who get up every morning, go to work, pay their taxes, and play by the rules cannot provide their children with health coverage. Meanwhile, more than 3 million American children and teens smoke cigarettes. Increasing the price of a package of cigarettes makes them less affordable for children and discourages teen smoking. The Senate voted, 55-45, to kill an amendment that would have raised $30 billion by increasing the tax on tobacco and spent $20 billion to provide health insurance for uninsured children. The remaining $10 billion would have gone to deficit reduction. (May 21, 1997)

CDF's position was against killing the amendment. (N)

3. Provide additional funds for health insurance for uninsured children

(S.949)

The bill the Senate was considering included $16 billion to provide health insurance coverage to uninsured children. On this vote, the Senate agreed to increase that amount by $8 billion, to $24 billion over five years. Sixty votes were needed to waive a procedural rule that prevented this amendment from being considered. The Senate agreed to waive the rule, 80-19. (June 26, 1997)

CDF's position was for waiving the rule and passing the amendment. (Y)

4. Comprehensive health insurance benefits for children with special needs

(S.947)

Under the new health insurance program for uninsured children, states decide the range of benefits that will be offered, including physical and speech therapy, prescription drugs, eyeglasses, and hearing aids. Families with children with special health needs can run up exorbitant bills if a state does not develop a comprehensive benefit package. The Senate voted, 57-43, to kill an amendment that would have required that these children receive comprehensive health benefits. (June 25, 1997)

CDF's position was against killing the amendment. (N)

5. Food and nutrition for legal immigrant children

(S.947)

In 1996, Congress enacted a law to end the guaranteed safety net for children and families. Among many changes, the law eliminated food stamps for 935,000 legal immigrants, of whom it is estimated about 500,000 are children. Food stamps help parents stretch their modest incomes to feed their children throughout the month. On this vote, the Senate rejected an amendment to restore food stamp benefits for legal immigrant children. (June 25, 1997)

CDF's position was to pass the amendment. (Y)

Y = CDF supported the measure
N = CDF opposed the measure

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Key 1997 Senate votes

(Continued from page 4)

6. Health care for children with disabilities losing Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

(S.947)

Disabled children who receive income assistance through the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program also receive health care through the Medicaid program. The 1996 welfare law modified the disability rules a child must meet to receive SSI, cutting some children from the program. Some of the children would not continue to receive Medicaid. This amendment proposed to continue Medicaid for them. Sixty votes were needed to waive a procedural rule that prevented this amendment from being considered. The Senate refused to waive the rule, 49-51. (June 25, 1997)

CDF's position was to waive the rule and pass the amendment. (Y)

7. Keeping children safe by repairing crumbling schools

(S.Con.Res.27)

According to the General Accounting Office, more than 14 million children attend schools that need major renovation or replacement. In communities in every state, schools are crumbling and children struggle to learn in unsafe conditions. On this vote, the Senate killed an amendment, 56-43, to provide $5 billion to help states and school districts renovate and repair these schools. (May 22, 1997)

CDF's position was against killing the amendment. (N)

8. Meeting the educational needs of disadvantaged children

(S.1061)

On this vote, the Senate voted, 49-51, not to kill an amendment to consolidate the federal funds for many education programs. The money would be sent to the states, without the current protections for poor children, migrant and immigrant children, and children whose schools are not safe or drug-free. (Sept. 11, 1997)

CDF's position was to kill the amendment. (Y)

9. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997

(H.R.5)

In 1975, Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, Public Law 94-142, which guaranteed children with disabilities a free, appropriate, public education. In 1997, the Congress passed the reauthorization of this important law, now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The Senate passed the reauthorization of this law by a vote of 98-1. (May 14, 1997)

CDF's position was to pass the bill. (Y)

10. Enforce laws banning tobacco sales to teens

(S.1033)

More than 3 million American children smoke cigarettes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the average teen smoker starts smoking at age 13 and is addicted by age 14 1/2. In an effort to reduce teens' easy access to cigarettes and other forms of tobacco, the Senate had provided $4.9 million to crack down on those who sell them cigarettes. This amendment increased that amount to $34 million, the amount the President said was needed for effective enforcement. The Senate rejected, 28-70, a motion to kill the amendment. (Sept. 3, 1997)

CDF's position was against killing the amendment. (N)

11. Annual funding for key child protections, including Head Start and child care

(H.R.2264)

The Senate passed, 91-4, the annual appropriations bill that funds the departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Education. The bill included a $375 million increase that will allow more young children to receive Head Start's child care, early childhood education, health, nutrition, and social services, and a $50 million increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant to help parents afford the cost of child care and to help states improve the quality of child care for infants and toddlers. (Nov. 8, 1997)

CDF's position was to pass the bill. (Y)

SENATE

CDF's Position	1 N	2 N	3 Y	4 N	5 Y	6 Y	7 N	8 Y	9 Y	10 N	11 Y	% '97	% '96
ALABAMA													
Sessions J (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	**9**	*
Shelby R (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	**27**	20
ALASKA													
Murkowski F (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	?	+	**27**	20
Stevens T (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	**27**	20
ARIZONA													
Kyl J (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**27**	13
McCain J (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	**27**	13
ARKANSAS													
Bumpers D (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
Hutchinson T (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	**18**	*
CALIFORNIA													
Boxer B (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
Feinstein D (D)	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**91**	100
COLORADO													
Allard W (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**36**	*
Campbell B (R)	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	?	**45**	40
CONNECTICUT													
Dodd C (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	87
Lieberman J (D)	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**82**	80
DELAWARE													
Biden J (D)	-	+	+	+	[redacted]	+	+	+	+	+	+	**91**	73
Roth W (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**36**	13
FLORIDA													
Graham B (D)	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**82**	80
Mack C (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**36**	13
GEORGIA													
Cleland M (D)	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**73**	*
Coverdell P (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**27**	20
HAWAII													
Akaka D (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
Inouye D (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	87

SENATE

CDF's Position	1 N	2 N	3 Y	4 N	5 Y	6 Y	7 N	8 Y	9 Y	10 N	11 Y	% '97	% '96
IDAHO													
Craig L (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**27**	13
Kempthorne D (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**36**	13
ILLINOIS													
Durbin R (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	*
Moseley-Braun C (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**91**	93
INDIANA													
Coats D (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	**18**	13
Lugar R (R)	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**45**	20
IOWA													
Grassley C (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**36**	20
Harkin T (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	**82**	80
KANSAS													
Brownback S (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	**27**	*
Roberts P (R)	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	**18**	*
KENTUCKY													
Ford W (D)	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	**64**	80
McConnell M (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	**9**	20
LOUISIANA													
Breaux J (D)	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**64**	67
Landrieu M (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**91**	*
MAINE													
Collins S (R)	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**45**	*
Snowe O (R)	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**55**	47
MARYLAND													
Mikulski B (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
Sarbanes P (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
MASSACHUSETTS													
Kennedy E (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
Kerry J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	87
MICHIGAN													
Abraham S (R)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**36**	20
Levin C (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	87

SENATE KEY

1 = Balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution
2 = Increase tobacco tax to pay for health insurance for uninsured children
3 = Provide additional funds for health insurance for uninsured children
4 = Comprehensive health insurance benefits for children with special needs
5 = Food and nutrition for legal immigrant children
6 = Health care for children with disabilities losing Supplemental Security Income
7 = Keeping children safe by repairing crumbling schools
8 = Meeting the educational needs of disadvantaged children
9 = Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997
10 = Enforce laws banning tobacco sales to teens
11 = Annual funding for key child protections, including Head Start and child care

% '97 = Number of times voted for CDF position divided by the total number of votes (absences during voting computed as negative votes)
% '96 = 1996 vote rating

Y = CDF supported the measure
N = CDF opposed the measure
+ = Favorable
- = Unfavorable
? = Did not vote
* = Not a member in 1996
S = Speaker exercised discretion not to vote
X = Not eligible member
P = Voted *present*

D = Democrat
R = Republican
I = Independent
AL = At large

1997 Voting Record

SENATE

CDF's Position	1 N	2 N	3 Y	4 N	5 Y	6 Y	7 N	8 Y	9 Y	10 N	% Y	% '97	% '96
MINNESOTA													
Grams R (R)									+		+	**18**	13
Wellstone P (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**91**	100
MISSISSIPPI													
Cochran T (R)			+						+		+	**27**	20
Lott T (R)			+						+		+	**27**	20
MISSOURI													
Ashcroft J (R)									+		+	**9**	13
Bond C (R)			+						+	+	+	**36**	13
MONTANA													
Baucus M (D)		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**82**	80
Burns C (R)			+						+		+	**27**	20
NEBRASKA													
Hagel C (R)			+						+		+	**27**	*
Kerrey B (D)	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**91**	87
NEVADA													
Bryan R (D)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**91**	80
Reid H (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	87
NEW HAMPSHIRE													
Gregg J (R)									+	+	+	**27**	13
Smith R (R)									+			**9**	13
NEW JERSEY													
Lautenberg F (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
Torricelli R (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	*
NEW MEXICO													
Bingaman J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
Domenici P (R)			+						+		+	**27**	20
NEW YORK													
D'Amato A (R)		+	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	**73**	27
Moynihan D (D)	+	+	+			+	+	+	+	+	+	**82**	100
NORTH CAROLINA													
Faircloth L (R)									+		+	**18**	20
Helms J (R)									+			**9**	20
NORTH DAKOTA													
Conrad K (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	87
Dorgan B (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	87
OHIO													
DeWine M (R)		+	+						+	+	+	**45**	20
Glenn J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
OKLAHOMA													
Inhofe J (R)									+			**9**	13
Nickles D (R)									+	+	+	**27**	13

SENATE

CDF's Position	1 N	2 N	3 Y	4 N	5 Y	6 Y	7 N	8 Y	9 Y	10 N	% Y	% '97	% '96
OREGON													
Smith G (R)		+	+						+	+	+	**45**	*
Wyden R (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	87
PENNSYLVANIA													
Santorum R (R)			+						+		+	**27**	20
Specter A (R)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**91**	53
RHODE ISLAND													
Chafee J (R)		+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	**82**	53
Reed J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	*
SOUTH CAROLINA													
Hollings E (D)	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**91**	80
Thurmond S (R)									+		+	**18**	20
SOUTH DAKOTA													
Daschle T (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
Johnson T (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	*
TENNESSEE													
Frist B (R)			+						+		+	**27**	13
Thompson F (R)									+	+	+	**27**	13
TEXAS													
Gramm P (R)									+		+	**18**	13
Hutchison K (R)			+						+		+	**27**	20
UTAH													
Bennett R (R)			+						+	+	+	**36**	20
Hatch O (R)		+	+						+	+	+	**45**	20
VERMONT													
Jeffords J (R)		+	+	+		+		+	+	+	+	**73**	60
Leahy P (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
VIRGINIA													
Robb C (D)			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**82**	67
Warner J (R)			+						+	+	+	**27**	27
WASHINGTON													
Gorton S (R)			+								+	**18**	13
Murray P (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
WEST VIRGINIA													
Byrd R (D)	+	+	+	+			+	+	+	+	+	**82**	73
Rockefeller J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**91**	80
WISCONSIN													
Feingold R (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	87
Kohl H (D)			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**82**	73
WYOMING													
Enzi M (R)			+						+		+	**27**	*
Thomas C (R)			+						+		+	**27**	20

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Key 1997 House votes

1. Health insurance coverage for uninsured children

(H.R.2015)

As described in Senate vote No. 2, 10 million children have no health insurance. On this vote, 346-85, the House passed the budget reconciliation bill that included the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP provides states with $48 billion over 10 years to insure children in low-wage working families, the largest investment in children's health since Medicaid was created in 1965. (July 30, 1997)

CDF's position was to pass the bill. (Y)

2. Promoting permanent and safe homes for children

(H.R.867)

The Adoption and Safe Families Act included many provisions to protect children's safety and promote permanent homes for children. On this vote, 406-7, the House passed the final version of the bill. (November 13, 1997)

CDF's position was to pass the bill. (Y)

3. Investments that keep children safe and out of trouble

(H.R.3)

In this bill, the House proposed to give states $1.5 billion each year to build facilities to house young offenders. There is no requirement that any of the funds be used to provide effective crime prevention investments for children, such as after-school and mentoring activities. On this vote, the House rejected, 200-224, an amendment to require that states use at least 60 percent of the money for these investments for children. (May 8, 1997)

CDF's position was to pass the amendment. (Y)

4. Holding children accountable for their actions while keeping them safe

(H.R.3)

This bill allowed children as young as age 13 to be tried as adults. Children tried as adults commit another crime sooner, commit more serious crimes, and reoffend more often than comparable children tried as juveniles. They are more likely to be incarcerated in adult jails, where they are eight times more likely to commit suicide; five times more likely to be sexually assaulted; two times more likely to be assaulted by staff; and 50 percent more likely to be attacked with a weapon than children in juvenile facilities. On this vote, the House rejected, 129-288, an amendment to bar prosecution of 13-year-olds as adults. (May 8, 1997)

CDF's position was to pass the amendment. (Y)

Y = CDF supported the measure
N = CDF opposed the measure

5. Balancing punishment with investments that keep children safe and out of trouble

(H.R.3)

This bill focused on increasing penalties for children involved in crime and provided states with $1.5 billion to build new juvenile prisons and enforce laws, but included no requirement that any of the funds be used for activities, such as after-school, mentoring, and summer programs that have proven effective in keeping children away from the criminal justice system in the first place. The House voted, 286-132, to pass the bill. (May 8, 1997)

CDF's position was to vote against the bill. (N)

6. Keeping low-income public housing affordable

(H.R.2)

The House was considering a bill to repeal the six-decade-old National Housing Act and to block grant funding for federal housing programs that serve low-income people, including families with children. Under current law, public housing residents are not required to pay any more than 30 percent of their incomes in rent. The underlying bill repeals that protection for poor families. On this amendment, they rejected, 172-252, an amendment to cap at 30 percent of a family's income the amount they must pay for rent in public housing. (May 7, 1997)

CDF's position was to pass the amendment. (Y)

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Key 1997 House votes

(Continued from page 8)

7. Child nutrition

(H.R.1469)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) serves more than 7 million women, infants, and children each month, providing nutrition counseling for pregnant women and nutritious food for women and their young children. Every $1 spent in WIC is estimated to save $3.50 in medical, income support, and special education costs for low-birthweight babies. On this vote, the House agreed, 338-89, to increase the funds for WIC by $38 million, to the full amount sought by the President. (May 15, 1997)

CDF's position was to pass the amendment. (Y)

8. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997

(H.R.5)

See explanation of Senate vote No. 9. The House voted, 420-3, to pass the bill. (May 13, 1997)

CDF's position was to pass the bill. (Y)

9. Annual funding for key child protections, including Head Start and child care

(H.R.2264)

See explanation of Senate vote No. 11. The House voted, 352-65, to pass the bill. (Nov. 7, 1997)

CDF's position was to pass the bill. (Y)

1997 congressional voting record

(Continued from page 3)

but not the other because only one chamber had a recorded vote, while the other had a voice vote. Often, the key vote on an important issue is not the vote on passage. In some cases, there will have been amendments to weaken (or strengthen) the bill or motions to prevent consideration of the merits of the bill. As a result, while some of the votes listed here may appear to be technical, these votes were the key ones affecting the ultimate resolution of the issue. For example, the outcome on a motion to waive a "point of order" against a bill or an amendment, or to secure the end ("cloture") of debate, is often decisive. Because these motions can only pass if 60 senators support them, failure to secure 60 votes often determines the fate of the underlying bill or amendment.

Judging a lawmaker's record on children

CDF compiles this voting record as part of its ongoing lobbying activities for children. The scores are not to be taken as an endorsement of any candidates. Members of Congress take other actions, in addition to their votes, that affect children in important ways. Some develop and sponsor good legislation and work tirelessly to enact it.

Some members regularly speak out for children in committees and on the floor, providing the leadership that America's children so desperately need. All members cast votes in committees that have a significant impact on children.

All of these actions also provide a basis for evaluating your senators' or representative's commitment to children.

Children need every vote they can get

Senators and representatives may miss a crucial vote affecting children for many reasons, some unavoidable. CDF counts a missed vote as a vote against because children need every possible vote, every time.

Particularly where a member has multiple missed votes, the member's vote record for the previous year may be an important additional guide to the member's record on children's issues.

This record includes voting scores from 1996 to also help you see more than one year of your senators' and representative's votes.

CDF hopes that every parent, grandparent, educator, health care or child care provider, child advocate, and individual who cares about children will take time to review the votes and issues contained in this record.

Continue to demonstrate your concern for children through regular telephone calls, letters, and visits to all your elected officials. Let lawmakers know about the problems and needs of children and families in your community, urge them to come and see for themselves, and tell them what you expect them to do about those problems and needs. Insist that they act to ensure that no child is left behind.

The information about how a representative or senator voted on each bill CDF selected comes from CQ Washington Alert, a computerized legislative service, and is based on the Congressional Quarterly's record of the votes.

Additional copies of the full 1997 voting record, as well as vote records for earlier years, may be purchased for $3 each from CDF Publications, 25 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, 202-662-3652.

1997 Voting Record

HOUSE

CDF's Position	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 N	6 Y	7 Y	8 Y	9 Y	% '97	% '96
ALABAMA											
1 Callahan S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
2 Everett T (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**44**	0
3 Riley B (R)	+	?	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	**33**	*
4 Aderholt R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**44**	*
5 Cramer R (D)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	57
6 Bachus S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**44**	7
7 Hilliard E (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	93
ALASKA											
AL Young D (R)	?	+	-	-	-	-	+	?	+	**33**	7
ARIZONA											
1 Salmon M (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**33**	0
2 Pastor E (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	**89**	100
3 Stump B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
4 Shadegg J (R)	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
5 Kolbe J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
6 Hayworth J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
ARKANSAS											
1 Berry M (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	*
2 Snyder V (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	*
3 Hutchinson A (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**44**	0
4 Dickey J (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**33**	0
CALIFORNIA											
1 Riggs F (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
2 Herger W (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
3 Fazio V (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	79
4 Doolittle J (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
5 Matsui R (D)	+	?	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	**78**	93
6 Woolsey L (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
7 Miller G (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	79
8 Pelosi N (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
9 Dellums R (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	100
10 Tauscher E (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	*
11 Pombo R (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
12 Lantos T (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
13 Stark P (D)	-	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**78**	86
14 Eshoo A (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	86
15 Campbell T (R)	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	**78**	29
16 Lofgren Z (D)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	**89**	93
17 Farr S (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
18 Condit G (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	43
19 Radanovich G (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
20 Dooley C (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	71
21 Thomas B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
22 Capps W (D)	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	**100**	*
23 Gallegly E (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
24 Sherman B (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	*
25 McKeon H (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
26 Berman H (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	86
27 Rogan J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
28 Dreier D (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
29 Waxman H (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	93
30 Becerra X (D)	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	?	+	**78**	93
31 Martinez M (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	86
32 Dixon J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
33 Roybal-Allard L (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
34 Torres E (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
35 Waters M (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	86
36 Harman J (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	64
37 Millender-McDonald J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
38 Horn S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	14
39 Royce E (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
40 Lewis J (R)	+	+	?	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	14
41 Kim J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
42 Brown G (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
43 Calvert K (R)	+	+	-	-	?	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
44 Bono S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
45 Rohrabacher D (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
46 Sanchez L (D)	+	+	+	?	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	*
47 Cox C (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
48 Packard R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
49 Bilbray B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	29
50 Filner B (D)	-	+	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	**56**	100
51 Cunningham R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
52 Hunter D R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
COLORADO											
1 DeGette D (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	*
2 Skaggs D (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	86
3 McInnis S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
4 Schaffer B (R)	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	**44**	*

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HOUSE

CDF's Position	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 N	6 Y	7 Y	8 Y	9 Y	% '97	% '96
5 Hefley J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
6 Schaefer D (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**44**	0
CONNECTICUT											
1 Kennelly B (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	79
2 Gejdenson S (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	79
3 DeLauro R (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	93
4 Shays C (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	29
5 Maloney J (D)	+	?	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**67**	*
6 Johnson N (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	14
DELAWARE											
AL Castle M (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	29
FLORIDA											
1 Scarborough J (R)	-	+	-	?	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
2 Boyd A (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	*
3 Brown C (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
4 Fowler T (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
5 Thurman K (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	71
6 Stearns C (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**44**	0
7 Mica J (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	**22**	0
8 McCollum B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	**44**	0
9 Bilirakis M (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
10 Young C (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	**44**	14
11 Davis J (D)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**89**	*
12 Canady C (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	14
13 Miller D (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	7
14 Goss P (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
15 Weldon D (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
16 Foley M (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
17 Meek C (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
18 Ros-Lehtinen I (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	36
19 Wexler R (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	*
20 Deutsch P (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	57
21 Diaz-Balart L (R)	+	+	-	?	?	-	+	+	+	**56**	29
22 Shaw E (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
23 Hastings A (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	86
GEORGIA											
1 Kingston J (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**33**	0
2 Bishop S (D)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**89**	71
3 Collins M (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
4 McKinney C (D)	+	+	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	**67**	*
5 Lewis J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
6 Gingrich N (R)	+	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	**11**	0
7 Barr B (R)	+	+	-	?	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
8 Chambliss S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
9 Deal N (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	7
10 Norwood C (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
11 Linder J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	*
HAWAII											
1 Abercrombie N (D)	+	+	P	+	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	93
2 Mink P (D)	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**78**	100
IDAHO											
1 Chenoweth H (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
2 Crapo M (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0

HOUSE

CDF's Position	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 N	6 Y	7 Y	8 Y	9 Y	% '97	% '96
ILLINOIS											
1 Rush B (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	**78**	93
2 Jackson J (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	100
3 Lipinski W (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	57
4 Gutierrez L (D)	-	+	+	+	?	?	+	?	+	**56**	100
5 Blagojevich R (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	?	+	**78**	*
6 Hyde H (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
7 Davis D (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	*
8 Crane P (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
9 Yates S (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	**78**	100
10 Porter J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
11 Weller J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	14
12 Costello J (D)	+	+	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	**67**	71
13 Fawell H (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
14 Hastert D (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
15 Ewing T (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
16 Manzullo D (R)	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
17 Evans L (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
18 LaHood R (R)	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	**33**	14
19 Poshard G (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	64
20 Shimkus J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
INDIANA											
1 Visclosky P (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	79
2 McIntosh D (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
3 Roemer T (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	64
4 Souder M (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
5 Buyer S (R)	+	?	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	7
6 Burton D (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
7 Pease E (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
8 Hostettler J (R)	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	**56**	0
9 Hamilton L (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	57
10 Carson J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	*
IOWA											
1 Leach J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	**44**	43
2 Nussle J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
3 Boswell L (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	*
4 Ganske G (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	21
5 Latham T (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
KANSAS											
1 Moran J (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**33**	*
2 Ryun J (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	*
3 Snowbarger V (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	*
4 Tiahrt T (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
KENTUCKY											
1 Whitfield E (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
2 Lewis R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
3 Northup A (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	*
4 Bunning J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
5 Rogers H (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
6 Baesler S (D)	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**44**	71
LOUISIANA											
1 Livingston R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
2 Jefferson W (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
3 Tauzin W (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7

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HOUSE

CDF's Position	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 N	6 Y	7 Y	8 Y	9 Y	% '97	% '96
LOUISIANA (cont.)											
4 McCrery J (R)	+	+	-	-	?	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
5 Cooksey J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
6 Baker R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
7 John C (D)	+	?	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
MAINE											
1 Allen T (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	*
2 Baldacci J (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	71
MARYLAND											
1 Gilchrest W (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	21
2 Ehrlich R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
3 Cardin B (D)	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	**78**	71
4 Wynn A (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
5 Hoyer S (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	79
6 Bartlett R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**44**	0
7 Cummings E (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
8 Morella C (R)	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	**78**	43
MASSACHUSETTS											
1 Olver J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
2 Neal R (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	71
3 McGovern J (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	*
4 Frank B (D)	-	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	?	**67**	100
5 Meehan M (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
6 Tierney J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	*
7 Markey E (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	100
8 Kennedy J (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	93
9 Moakley J (D)	-	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	**78**	79
10 Delahunt B (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	*
MICHIGAN											
1 Stupak B (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	**89**	71
2 Hoekstra P (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	?	**33**	0
3 Ehlers V (R)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	**89**	7
4 Camp D (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
5 Barcia J (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	71
6 Upton F (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	14
7 Smith N (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
8 Stabenow D (D)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**89**	*
9 Kildee D (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	93
10 Bonior D (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
11 Knollenberg J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
12 Levin S (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	86
13 Rivers L (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	86
14 Conyers J (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	**78**	100
15 Kilpatrick C (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	*
16 Dingell J (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	86
MINNESOTA											
1 Gutknecht G (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
2 Minge D (D)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	**89**	79
3 Ramstad J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	29
4 Vento B (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
5 Sabo M (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
6 Luther W (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	86
7 Peterson C (D)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**44**	50
8 Oberstar J (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	86
MISSISSIPPI											
1 Wicker R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
2 Thompson B (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
3 Pickering C (R)	+	+	?	?	?	-	-	+	+	**44**	*
4 Parker M (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
5 Taylor G (D)	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**33**	29
MISSOURI											
1 Clay W (D)	-	+	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	**44**	86
2 Talent J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
3 Gephardt R (D)	-	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**78**	93
4 Skelton I (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	?	?	+	**44**	64
5 McCarthy K (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	86
6 Danner P (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	64
7 Blunt R (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	*
8 Emerson J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
9 Hulshof K (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
MONTANA											
AL Hill R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**44**	*

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NEBRASKA											
1 Bereuter D (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	14
2 Christensen J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
3 Barrett B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
NEVADA											
1 Ensign J (R)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	14
2 Gibbons J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
NEW HAMPSHIRE											
1 Sununu J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
2 Bass C (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
NEW JERSEY											
1 Andrews R (D)	+	+	+	-	-	?	?	+	+	**56**	79
2 LoBiondo F (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	21
3 Saxton J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	14
4 Smith C (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	21
5 Roukema M (R)	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	57
6 Pallone F (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	86
7 Franks B (R)	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	29
8 Pascrell B (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	*
9 Rothman S (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	*
10 Payne D (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	100
11 Frelinghuysen R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	21
12 Pappas M (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
13 Menendez R (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	93
NEW MEXICO											
1 Schiff S (R)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	**0**	21
2 Skeen J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
3 Redmond B (R)	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	**100**	*
NEW YORK											
1 Forbes M (R)	?	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**44**	14
2 Lazio R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	21
3 King P (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	14
4 McCarthy C (D)	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	**78**	*
5 Ackerman G (D)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	**89**	86
6 Flake F (D)	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	**78**	93
7 Manton T (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	79
8 Nadler J (D)	-	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	**78**	86
9 Schumer C (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	?	+	**78**	79
10 Towns E (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	93
11 Owens M (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	100
12 Velazquez N (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	93
13 Molinari S (R)	+	X	-	-	-	-	+	+	X	**43**	21
13 Fossella V (R)	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	**100**	*
14 Maloney C (D)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**89**	93
15 Rangel C (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	100
16 Serrano J (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	100
17 Engel E (D)	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**67**	100
18 Lowey N (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	86
19 Kelly S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	14
20 Gilman B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	57
21 McNulty M (D)	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	93
22 Solomon G (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
23 Boehlert S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	43
24 McHugh J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	21
25 Walsh J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	29
26 Hinchey M (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
27 Paxon B (R)	+	+	-	-	?	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
28 Slaughter L (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
29 LaFalce J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
30 Quinn J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	**44**	50
31 Houghton A (R)	+	?	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**33**	29
NORTH CAROLINA											
1 Clayton E (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
2 Etheridge B (D)	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**67**	*
3 Jones W (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**33**	0
4 Price D (D)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**89**	*
5 Burr R (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**33**	0
6 Coble H (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
7 McIntyre M (D)	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**67**	*
8 Hefner W (D)	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	?	+	**44**	71
9 Myrick S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
10 Ballenger C (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**33**	0
11 Taylor C (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
12 Watt M (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	100
NORTH DAKOTA											
AL Pomeroy E (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	86
OHIO											
1 Chabot S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
2 Portman R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
3 Hall T (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	79
4 Oxley M (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
5 Gillmor P (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	**44**	7
6 Strickland T (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	*
7 Hobson D (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
8 Boehner J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
9 Kaptur M (D)	-	+	+	-	-	?	+	+	+	**56**	79
10 Kucinich D (D)	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**67**	*
11 Stokes L (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	71
12 Kasich J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
13 Brown S (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
14 Sawyer T (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	79
15 Pryce D (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
16 Regula R (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
17 Traficant J (D)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	64
18 Ney B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	7
19 LaTourette S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	14
OKLAHOMA											
1 Largent S (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
2 Coburn T (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	7
3 Watkins W (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	?	+	+	**44**	*
4 Watts J (R)	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	0
5 Istook E (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	0
6 Lucas F (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0

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1997 Voting Record

HOUSE

CDF's Position	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 N	6 Y	7 Y	8 Y	9 Y	% '97	% '96
OREGON											
1 Furse E (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	79
2 Smith B (R)	+	?	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**33**	*
3 Blumenauer E (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	**78**	86
4 DeFazio P (D)	-	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	**78**	93
5 Hooley D (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	*
PENNSYLVANIA											
1 Foglietta T (D)	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
2 Fattah C (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
3 Borski R (D)	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**67**	86
4 Klink R (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	79
5 Peterson J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
6 Holden T (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	64
7 Weldon C (R)	+	?	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**44**	7
8 Greenwood J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	21
9 Shuster B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
10 McDade J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	14
11 Kanjorski P (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	64
12 Murtha J (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	64
13 Fox J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	36
14 Coyne W (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	100
15 McHale P (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	71
16 Pitts J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
17 Gekas G (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
18 Doyle M (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	71
19 Goodling B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
20 Mascara F (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	57
21 English P (R)	+	+	-	-	?	-	+	+	+	**56**	21
RHODE ISLAND											
1 Kennedy P (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**89**	100
2 Weygand B (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	*
SOUTH CAROLINA											
1 Sanford M (R)	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	**33**	7
2 Spence F (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
3 Graham L (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**33**	0
4 Inglis B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
5 Spratt J (D)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**89**	71
6 Clyburn J (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93

HOUSE

CDF's Position	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 N	6 Y	7 Y	8 Y	9 Y	% '97	% '96
SOUTH DAKOTA											
AL Thune J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
TENNESSEE											
1 Jenkins B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
2 Duncan J (R)	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	29
3 Wamp Z (R)	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**33**	7
4 Hilleary V (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	14
5 Clement B (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	64
6 Gordon B (D)	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**67**	50
7 Bryant E (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**33**	0
8 Tanner J (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	57
9 Ford H (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	79
TEXAS											
1 Sandlin M (D)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**89**	*
2 Turner J (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	*
3 Johnson S (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
4 Hall R (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	14
5 Sessions P (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	**44**	*
6 Barton J (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**22**	7
7 Archer B (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	0
8 Brady K (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	**33**	*
9 Lampson N (D)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**89**	*
10 Doggett L (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	79
11 Edwards C (D)	+	+	+	-	-	?	+	+	+	**67**	71
12 Granger K (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	*
13 Thornberry W (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
14 Paul R (R)	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	**22**	*
15 Hinojosa R (D)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	**89**	*
16 Reyes S (D)	+	+	+	-	-	?	+	+	+	**67**	*
17 Stenholm C (D)	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	**67**	43
18 Jackson-Lee S (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	**100**	93
19 Combest L (R)	+	?	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**33**	0
20 Gonzalez H (D)	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	**67**	100
21 Smith L (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	**56**	0
22 DeLay T (R)	+	+	-	?	-	-	-	+	+	**44**	0
23 Bonilla H (R)	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**33**	0
24 Frost M (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	71
25 Bentsen K (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	**78**	79
26 Armey D (R)	+	?	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	**33**	0

HOUSE KEY

1 = Health insurance coverage for uninsured children
2 = Promoting permanent and safe homes for children
3 = Investments that keep children safe and out of trouble
4 = Holding children accountable for their actions while keeping them safe
5 = Balancing punishment with investments that keep children safe and out of trouble
6 = Keeping low-income public housing affordable
7 = Child nutrition
8 = Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997
9 = Annual funding for key child protections, including Head Start and child care

% '97 = Number of times voted for CDF position divided by the total number of votes (absences during voting computed as negative votes)
% '96 = 1996 vote rating

Y = CDF supported the measure
N = CDF opposed the measure
+ = Favorable
- = Unfavorable
? = Did not vote
* = Not a member in 1996
S = Speaker exercised discretion not to vote
X = Not eligible member
P = Voted *present*

D = Democrat
R = Republican
I = Independent
AL = At large

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HOUSE

CDF's Position	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 N	6 Y	7 Y	8 Y	9 Y	% '97	% '96
27 Ortiz S (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	78	86
28 Rodriguez C (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	78	*
29 Green G (D)	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	78	79
30 Johnson E (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	89	93
UTAH											
1 Hansen J (R)	+	+		+	-	-		+	+	44	0
2 Cook M (R)	+	+			-	-	+	+	+	56	*
3 Cannon C (R)	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	44	*
VERMONT											
AL Sanders B (I)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	89	100
VIRGINIA											
1 Bateman H (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	33	*
2 Pickett O (D)	+	+	+	+			+	+	+	78	50
3 Scott R (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	89	100
4 Sisisky N (D)	+	+	+	-			+	+	+	67	57
5 Goode V (D)	-	+	-	-	-		+	+	-	33	*
6 Goodlatte R (R)	+	+	-		-	-	-	+	-	33	0
7 Bliley T (R)	+	+	-	+	-	-		+	+	44	0
8 Moran J (D)	+	+	+	+			+	+	+	78	79
9 Boucher R (D)		+	+		-	+	+	+	+	67	79
10 Wolf F (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	56	0
11 Davis T (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	56	14
WASHINGTON											
1 White R (R)	+	?	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	44	*
2 Metcalf J (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	44	*

HOUSE

CDF's Position	1 Y	2 Y	3 Y	4 Y	5 N	6 Y	7 Y	8 Y	9 Y	% '97	% '96
3 Smith L (R)	-	+					+	+	+	44	*
4 Hastings R (R)	+	+			-			+	-	33	0
5 Nethercutt G (R)	+	+						+	+	44	0
6 Dicks N (D)	+	+	+			+	+	+	+	78	79
7 McDermott J (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	78	100
8 Dunn J (R)	+	+					+	+	+	56	0
9 Smith A (D)	+	+	+			+	+	+	+	78	*
WEST VIRGINIA											
1 Mollohan A (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	89	79
2 Wise B (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	71
3 Rahall N (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	89	86
WISCONSIN											
1 Neumann M (R)	+	+					-	+	-	33	*
2 Klug S (R)	+	+			-		+	+	?	44	14
3 Kind R (D)	+	+	+			+	+	+	+	78	
4 Kleczka J (D)	+	+	+			+	+	+	+	78	79
5 Barrett T (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100
6 Petri T (R)	+	+	+	+			+	+	-	67	0
7 Obey D (D)	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	89	79
8 Johnson J (D)	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	89	
9 Sensenbrenner F (R)	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	44	0
WYOMING											
AL Cubin B (R)	+	?	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	33	0

Stand For Children

Celebrate the joy, energy, and rich diversity of our nation's children with *Stand For Children*, new from Hyperion Books.

This powerful picture book illustrates a version of Marian Wright Edelman's 1996 Stand For Children Day speech in Washington, D.C., through a series of colorful, multi-layered quilts designed by Adrienne Yorinks.

To order, call CDF Publications at 202-662-3652, or send payment to: CDF Publications, 25 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. Available for $15.95 each, plus $2 shipping and handling.

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One step for children

Are your members of Congress taking care of children? Check the voting records of your representative and senators. Thank those who did well, and urge the others to do better this year.

CDF Reports

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Key facts about American children

1 in 2 preschoolers has a mother in the labor force.

1 in 2 will live in a single parent family at some point in childhood.

1 in 2 never completes a single year of college.

1 in 3 is born to unmarried parents.

1 in 3 will be poor at some point in childhood.

1 in 3 is a year or more behind in school.

1 in 4 is born poor.

1 in 4 is born to a mother who did not graduate from high school.

1 in 4 lives with only one parent.

1 in 5 is poor now.

1 in 5 lives in a family receiving food stamps.

1 in 5 is born to a mother who received no prenatal care in the first three months of pregnancy.

1 in 6 has a foreign-born mother.

1 in 7 has no health insurance.

1 in 7 lives with a working relative but is poor nonetheless.

1 in 8 never graduates from high school.

1 in 8 is born to a teen mother.

1 in 11 lives at less than half the poverty level.

1 in 12 has a disability.

1 in 13 is born at low birthweight.

1 in 24 is born to a mother who received late or no prenatal care.

1 in 25 lives with neither parent.

1 in 132 dies before age 1.

1 in 680 is killed by gunfire before age 20.

Source: *The State of America's Children Yearbook 1998.* A 152-page guide for only $14.95. To order, see page 15

Children's Defense Fund

25 Years

LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND.

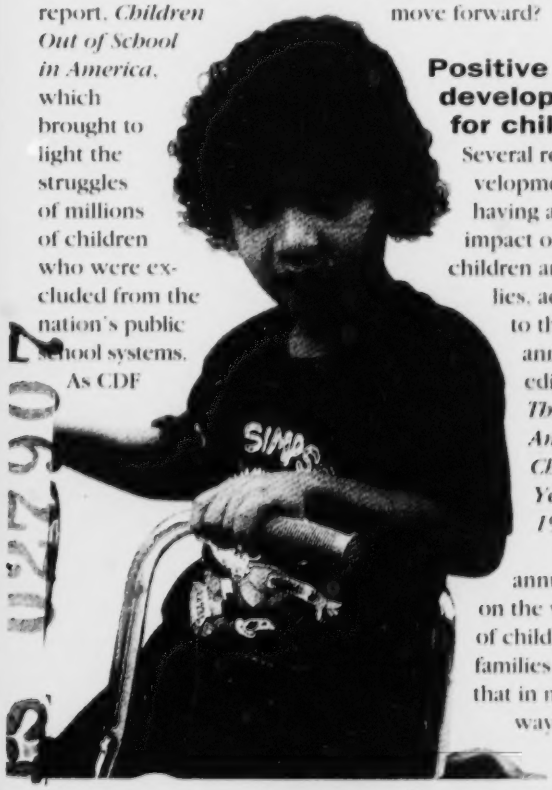
CDF Reports

Marian Wright Edelman, President

March 1998
Volume 19, Number 3

A look at where we stand after 25 years of work on behalf of children

In the summer of 1973, Marian Wright Edelman launched the Children's Defense Fund as a program of the Washington Research Project, Inc. In December 1974, CDF issued its first report, *Children Out of School in America*, which brought to light the struggles of millions of children who were excluded from the nation's public school systems. As CDF celebrates a quarter century of working to provide a strong and effective voice for all the children of America, it is a natural time to look back and reflect—where do we stand today and how do we move forward?



Positive developments for children

Several recent developments are having a positive impact on many children and families, according to the 25th anniversary edition of *The State of America's Children Yearbook 1998*. CDF's annual report on the well-being of children and families notes that in many ways, 1997 was a landmark year for children. In August 1997, President Clinton signed into law the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), one of the most significant steps forward for child health since enactment of the Medicaid program in 1965.

"Who would have thought," says Edelman, "that child advocates could get the legislative dream team of Utah Republican Senator Orrin Hatch and Massachusetts Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy to not only introduce bipartisan child health legislation in 1997 but also to successfully take on the powerful tobacco industry and get a $48 billion state children's health insurance program included in a balanced budget agreement, partially funded by a tobacco tax?"

Millions of children whose families earn too little to afford health insurance but too much to qualify for Medicaid will now be able to receive the health care they need.

Also in 1997, as part of the

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A look at where we stand after 25 years of work on behalf of children

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budget agreement, Congress gave states the option to make children "presumptively" eligible for Medicaid so they can receive benefits while awaiting formal approval. Congress also allowed states to cover children through Medicaid continuously for 12 months, even when events such as an increase in income or assets otherwise would disqualify them.

In other encouraging news, *Yearbook 1998* illustrates the continuing decline in youth violence by virtually every indicator and the large decline in arrest rates for younger children, suggesting less violent behavior among younger teens. Ironically, though, Congress is poised in 1998 to consider harmful new legislation, S.10, that "uses a sledgehammer to swat a fly," as Edelman puts it (see story, page 16).

This bill would turn back the clock on the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, a law CDF championed to stop children from being housed with hardened adult criminals.

On the child protection front, advocates heralded legislation promoting adoption and permanent placements, particularly for the 100,000 children in foster care who cannot be returned to their birth families. The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 clarifies that the health and safety of a child must be paramount, and it promotes more timely efforts to move children toward adoption or other permanent settings when families cannot be reunified.

During the past few years, more communities have formed partnerships for child protection, which involve families, agencies, schools, churches, and other groups and institutions in helping keep children safe from abuse and neglect (see the August 1997 *CDF Reports*).

Families' needs unmet

In 1998, however, as the economy grows and unemployment remains low, the gains of recent years are eluding many children and families. A shocking one in five children (20 percent) lives in poverty today (up from 14.4 percent in 1973). And the typical young family with children now has an annual income of less than $20,000—down nearly $10,000 (in 1994 dollars) from what the corresponding family made in 1973.

In an effort to prevent their families from falling behind, more parents are working outside the home today than ever before. In 1998, a record 66 percent of mothers with children under age 6 are in the work force (compared with 30 percent in 1973). And more than 77 percent of mothers with school-age children are in the work force today (compared with 50 percent in 1973).

At a time when parents need quality, affordable child care they can rely on, many families are having serious difficulties paying for good care. Demand for child care assistance in 1998 far outweighs supply, and alarming deficiencies persist in the quality of care that is available (see Special Report, page 5).

New challenges face those who work with and on behalf of children. Today complex, often interrelated, problems confront some of America's most vulnerable children: AIDS, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

Many familiar problems continue to go unsolved: teen pregnancy rates are still unacceptably high; far too many children go hungry and lack proper nutrition; and educational progress—especially for low-income and minority students—seems to have come to a halt. After years of studies, commissions, and reports, the nation has made little headway toward the national educational goals established in 1990 by the Bush Administration.

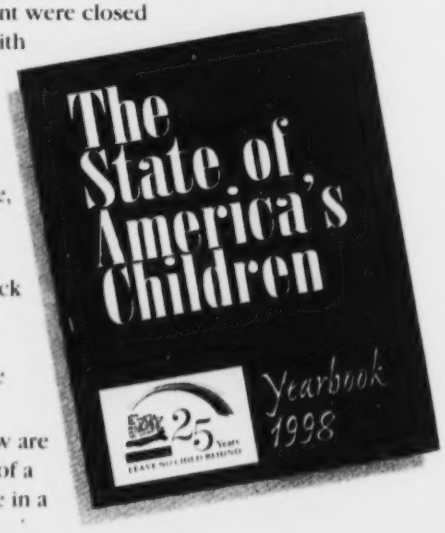
Communities innovate

As the yearbook points out, effective initiatives underway at the state and local levels are addressing the needs of some children and families. Illinois Work Pays program is helping low-wage-earning parents leave welfare by

(See page 13)

The State of America's Children Yearbook 1998 reveals:

- From January 1993 to June 1997, approximately 1.35 million families left welfare. But data for the quarter ending June 30, 1997, show that only 15 percent of welfare cases were closed because of a parent's increased earnings from work. About 40 percent were closed because a parent did not comply with program rules.
- Many low-income working families have scarce resources to pay for child care but little hope of receiving help. In Texas, for example, 30,000 families are on waiting lists for child care assistance.
- Between 1990 and 1995, the Black infant mortality rate dropped more than 16 percent, an improvement linked primarily to expansion of the Medicaid program in 1989.
- More than 2 million children now are in kinship care (living in the home of a relative). Most of these children live in a grandparent's home.
- The housing needs of low-income families and children are not being met. A September 1997 report issued by Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies warned that the housing crisis is escalating for low-income renters affected by the 1996 welfare law and other government cutbacks.



To order The State of America's Children Yearbook 1998, *$14.95 per copy, call CDF Publications, 202-662-3652.*

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A Voice for Children

by CDF President Marian Wright Edelman

Adult jails and prisons are no place for children

In Ohio, a 17-year-old who robbed a pizza store was put in the juvenile section of an adult prison. Six adult inmates who belonged to a White supremacist group entered the section where the boy was housed and stabbed him to death. A 16-year-old Texas boy arrested for setting fire to a fence and causing $500 in damage was sent to an adult prison. After being repeatedly raped and beaten, he hanged himself. A 15-year-old girl who ran away from her Midwestern home was put in the county adult jail, where she was raped by a deputy jailer.

Adult jails and prisons are no place for children. That's why for the past 25 years, national law has kept children arrested for offenses like shoplifting or running away out of jails and prisons for adults. Unfortunately, in an election year rush to get behind anything labeled a "crime bill," Congress is considering legislation (S.10) that would reverse existing law and expose children to serious risks—risks that could cost them their lives or physical and emotional safety.

In the early 1970s, CDF staff helped expose the dangers of housing children in adult jails by visiting more than 400 jails. We found children as young as age 12, most of whom were not a threat to the community. Many had been arrested for nonviolent offenses. While the majority of children were White, a third were minorities. Many of these children were raped, beaten, and left alone for days. Some attempted suicide. Children held in adult jails are five times more likely to be sexually assaulted and eight times more likely to commit suicide.

It's time for politicians to stand up and support preventive measures, not politically popular approaches that will surely harm children.

CDF's work helped lead to passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. This law guarantees that children are separated from adult prisoners and that children arrested for offenses such as running away or skipping school are placed in detention centers. Forty-eight states are in compliance with the law, which also ensures that children receive the education and counseling they need to re-enter society.

S.10 will remove these safeguards by allowing children to be put in jails and prisons with adults, even if they've committed minor offenses or are unjustly arrested. While it is called the Violent and Repeat Offender Act, the majority of children the bill will affect are neither violent nor repeat offenders. S.10 will invest more money in prisons and guarantee no money for prevention.

We must all now join in the fight against this harmful bill so that it cannot become law. Tell lawmakers that offering youngsters constructive after-school activities is one of the most effective ways of reducing juvenile crime. Urge them to invest in quality child care, after-school and summer programs, and jobs for our children.

S.10 is based on fear, not facts. It's time for politicians to stand up and support preventive measures, not politically popular approaches that will surely harm children.

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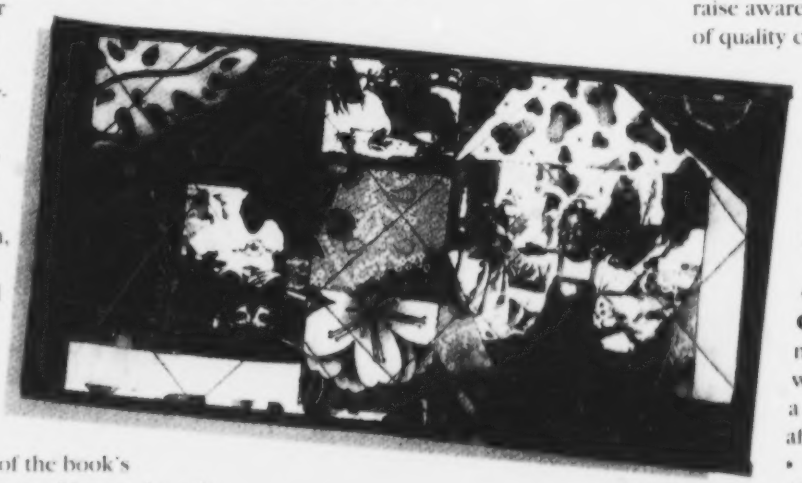
Standing For Children

Colorful quilts illustrate historic Stand For Children

Past, present, and future dreams come alive in brilliant colors in a new book for children and youth from Hyperion, *Stand For Children*. The book celebrates the continuing spirit of the Stand For Children march and rally held on June 1, 1996, in Washington, D.C.

Full of passages from the inspirational speech CDF President Marian Wright Edelman delivered to more than 300,000 people, the text acts as a written reminder that we all must make children a part of our everyday priorities.

Edelman says, "It is always the right time to do right for children, who are being born and formed in mind, body, and spirit every minute as life goes on."



The seriousness and beauty of the book's message is represented by patchwork story quilts illustrating each page. Modeled after the U.S. flag, the first quilt grabs readers attention with yellow stars bursting from red and white stripes. Every star frames the face of a child—some serious, some smiling. Together the stars circle a photograph of Edelman delivering her speech.

Created by quilter Adrienne Yorinks, the designs reinforce Edelman's message and make Edelman's words accessible to readers on all levels. For example, Edelman uses the text to send her message directly to children, urging all Americans to "commit . . . to building a just America that leaves no child behind, and to ensuring all of you a healthy and safe passage to adulthood."

Edelman and Yorinks deliver one of the most powerful messages on a page with more muted tones. Done in shades of blue and black with a small splash of color, the quilt juxtaposes a picture of children happy in their homes with photos of a family living on the street.

Edelman's words bring the picture to life: "Some came with family and some had no family. Some of us had one or more homes to protect our children from the cold, heat, and storms of life. Some of us had no home or place to call our own . . ."

Each section of *Stand For Children* is a reminder of how far we have come and how far we need to go to meet our children's most basic needs. Most importantly, it highlights serious issues in a way that everyone can understand and appreciate.

Published by Hyperion Books For Children, a division of the Walt Disney Co., *Stand For Children* will soon be available for purchase at major book stores and at Starbucks coffee shops.

Take time to read it yourself and then share it with a child. The beauty of the book is guaranteed to hold everyone's attention—and keep all focused on the well-being of our nation's children.

To order Stand For Children *($15.95 per copy) or a companion "Quilt" poster ($16), call CDF Publications, 202-662-3652, or send payment with $2 shipping and handling per item to CDF Publications, 25 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20001.*

How to take a Stand For Quality Child Care

On June 1, hundreds of communities will take a Stand For Quality Child Care during the third annual Stand For Children Day. There's still plenty of time to plan an event in your community to raise awareness about the importance of quality child care and after-school activities, to help propel local, state, and national child care initiatives, to attract new supporters for your ongoing efforts, and to improve children's lives through direct service.

Here are a few suggestions:

- **"Walk A Mile for A Child" March:** Hold a march or rally in conjunction with a fundraising drive to aid a local child care or after-school program.
- **Candidates Forum:** Ask all candidates running for a specific office about their views on child and after-school care. (If you're a 501(c)(3) organization, consult with legal counsel on permissible voter education and prohibited electioneering.)
- **Child Care Center or Play Space Community Renovation:** Give a face lift to a child care center or playground.
- **Child Care Provider Appreciation Celebration:** Honor a few outstanding child care centers or exceptional teachers. Consider inviting policy makers or business leaders to present the awards.

For more information on Stand For Children Day '98: Stand For Quality Child Care, call Stand For Children" at 1-800-663-4032 or 202-234-0095; e-mail tellstand@stand.org; or visit www.stand.org.

Child Care NOW!

Families need better access to affordable, quality child care

Until recently, Bernadette Monteleone and Charles Lampkin's child care expenses were so high that they constantly worried about how to buy food or pay the rent on time. Preschool costs for both Charles Edward, 3, and Chelsea, 5, ran $100 a week. Together, the couple makes under $20,000 a year, not enough to afford such high child care payments. In February, however, Bernadette received word that the state child care assistance she'd applied for months ago came through. This help is now saving the family roughly $60 a week.

"Before we received the subsidy, it was very difficult and a lot of times we came up short," she says. "It gives us a little extra money to put toward bills—rent, utilities, and bus passes—and to help buy food and clothes for the children."

Toby Simon, on the other hand, is one of the many parents in America who make too much to qualify for state assistance but too little to afford full-time child care. Last September, Toby, who earns $35,000 a year, made arrangements for her daughter Hattie, nearly 2, with a family child care provider. She explained that she doesn't have much money, and the provider agreed to give Toby a price break, charging her $200 a week instead of $275.

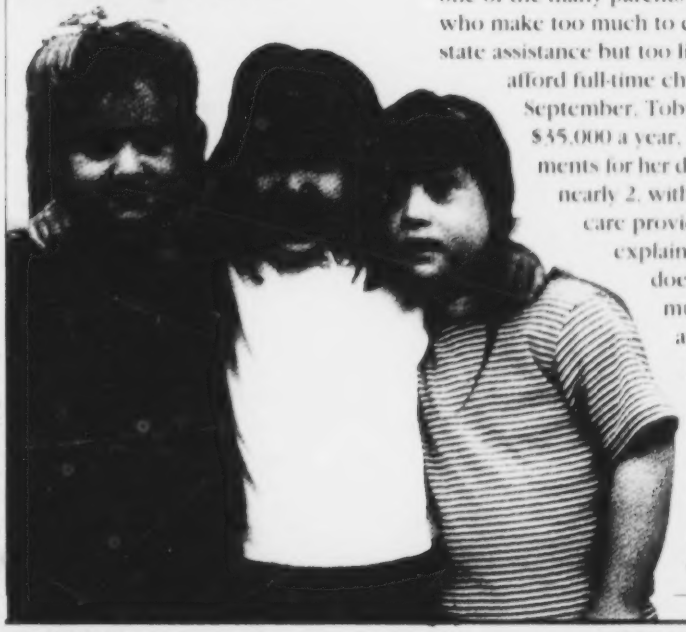


Photo © Human Issues Collaborative

After a few months, though, the provider informed Toby that Hattie would have to leave. She was told that parents who could afford to pay full price for care were clamoring for space with the provider, who desperately needed the extra money. Now Toby is searching for an alternative arrangement that she can afford.

"Hattie had been really happy there, and I thought she was doing very well," says Toby. "I was just completely devastated by this."

Bernadette and Toby are just two of the millions of working parents in the United States who are struggling to find and keep quality, affordable child care. Bernadette's story has a happy ending, but for parents like Toby and many others, there seems to be no relief in sight.

Child care is costly

Child care costs in all regions of the country can be extremely expensive, making it very difficult for parents to afford the good quality care they want for their children. Full-time care for a preschooler easily costs parents at least $4,000 annually per child and can run as high as $10,000 a year.

But low- and moderate-income families often find it impossible to pay such high rates. Many states do provide assistance to some low-income families, but eligible families frequently languish on waiting lists because the states lack sufficient resources. And a number of states provide assistance only to those families earning very low incomes, leaving many low-income working parents hard pressed to pay the full cost of care on their own.

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Child Care NOW!

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What's more, given that about half of all children spend part of their crucial early years being cared for by someone other than their parents, it is vitally important that the care be consistently first-rate for all children (see story, page 8). However, there's a severe shortage of good quality child care in America, and a shortage of any care for some groups, including infants and school-age children, children with special needs, children living in low-income areas, and children who need care during nontraditional hours.

"America can solve its widespread child care dilemma by providing parents with the resources they need to choose the type and quality of care they think is best for their children."

"Parents who need to work outside the home shouldn't have to face daunting struggles each month to pay the high cost of care on their own or have to sacrifice basic necessities so their children have a safe place to be during the day," says CDF Child Care Division Director Helen Blank. "Parents must be able to go to work each day secure in the knowledge that their children are well-cared for and learning while they are on the job."

Why child care matters

Numerous studies have shown that families have trouble paying for child care, that the quality of care their children receive too often is unsatisfactory, and that many parents cannot find the care they need.

These problems affect everyone: children, parents, employers, communities, and the nation. Lack of affordable child care for working parents hinders children's success in school and their healthy development. But good care can make a big difference in children's lives.

A recent study on the impact of good quality child care reported that it can help all children succeed but has an even greater impact on at-risk children's language skills and self-perception.

Another survey conducted for the U.S. Department of Education reported that preschool education programs improved cognitive abilities, classroom learning behavior, and socio-emotional development of children at risk for school failure. Preschools also promoted stronger parent—child relationships and greater likelihood of long-term school success and long-term social and economic self-sufficiency.

School-age children, too, benefit from quality care. Studies have found that good after-school programs can help children succeed and keep them out of trouble. Children attending formal child care programs during their out-of-school hours have been found to have better work habits and relationships with peers and to be better adjusted and less antisocial than children who are left alone or are informally supervised by adults.

Without adequate child care options, parents limit their productivity as workers. Many parents miss work or pass up employment opportunities because of difficulties arranging for child care. Studies also show that a lack of child care is a major barrier to work for parents receiving welfare. Child care assistance is key to helping families leave welfare for work and keep their jobs.

How communities benefit from investments in child care

Child care and early education are also critical to the success of two of society's highest priorities: helping families work and ensuring that every child enters school ready to learn. The importance of investing in child care has not gone unrecognized by the American public.

Communities that don't invest in a good supply of quality, affordable child care run the risk of paying both now and in the future—in parents who are less productive, children who don't get what they need to succeed in school, and school-age children who are at greater risk of substance abuse and criminal behavior.

Local officials agree. In a 1996 National League of Cities survey, more than half of the mayors polled selected child care as the most pressing issue from a list of 34 items. Police chiefs strongly believe that investing in child care can stop crime in their communities (see story, page 13).

Members of the general public, too, believe in the value of quality, affordable child care. According to a Lake Sosin Snell Perry survey, a bipartisan majority—74 percent—of those polled support increased investments to help low-income and middle-class families pay for child care.

The Campaign for Child Care NOW!

CDF and other national, state, and local friends of children have launched a campaign to pass major investments in child care this year. The Child Care NOW! campaign is urging Congress to approve legislation that will guarantee at least $20 billion over five years to: help states serve all low-income families who need child care help to work and support their families; improve the quality of child care for all children; and provide safe, constructive after-school activities for the nearly 5 million children left home alone after school.

"America can solve its widespread child care dilemma by providing parents with the resources they need to choose the type and quality of care they think is best for their children," says Blank.

In 1998, lawmakers have an unprecedented opportunity to make a difference in the lives of millions of children and families. More than 40 child care bills have been introduced in Congress. The most recent bills include the Child Care ACCESS (Affordable Child Care for Early Success and Security Act), S 1610, introduced by Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and

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Child Care NOW!

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cosponsored by 25 other Democratic senators, and the Caring for Children Act, S.1577, introduced by Sen. John Chafee (R-R.I.) and cosponsored by five Republican senators.

Dodd's bill provides $16.5 billion in guaranteed funds over five years to increase the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) so states can help more families afford good child care. The bill also would increase the availability and quality of school-age care and provide funds both to states and local communities to strengthen the quality of child care.

In addition, Dodd's bill expands the Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC) to help middle-income parents with their child care costs and makes it refundable for low-income families. It provides a tax credit for families with children under age 1 where one parent does not work outside the home.

Chafee's bill gives Congress the option of increasing the discretionary portion of the CCDBG from $1 billion to $2 billion per year over five years, extends the DCTC for middle-income parents who don't work outside the home, provides a new tax credit for parents with children under age 3, provides tax credits to employers, and creates a small business child care grant program.

Many members of Congress and child advocates believe that given the tobacco industry's decades-long effort to target children, tobacco taxes should be used to pay for any child care improvements. Sen. Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) has introduced the Healthy Kids Act, S.1638, a bill that raises the tobacco tax and earmarks $14 billion over five years for the CCDBG.

Another initiative that would go even further is the Healthy and Smoke-Free Children Act, S.1492, introduced by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and in the House by Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Connie Morella (R-Md.). This bill would increase resources by close to $30 billion over five years for child care, Head Start, Early Head Start, and after-school programs, and curb teen smoking by raising the cigarette tax by $1.50 per pack over three years. More than 200 national, state, and local organizations support the child care provisions in this bill.

President Clinton would also raise $7.5 billion from tobacco to fund a portion of his child care initiative.

"The link between child care and tobacco should be obvious to all of us by now: the tobacco industry has for at least a generation jeopardized our children's health while making billions of dollars in profits by targeting our children as 'tomorrow's cigarette business,'" says CDF President Marian Wright Edelman. "Any tobacco legislation this year, with or without a settlement, ought to make sure that tobacco money is used to ensure the healthy development of future generations.

"America can no longer afford to ignore the needs of working families and children. We must make sure that children are safe and ready for school and that they are involved in positive after-school activities. Investing in quality child care is a smart choice that we can and must make in 1998."

For more information about the Campaign for Child Care NOW!, call the Child Care Division at 202-662-3544 or visit CDF's Web site, www.childrensdefense.org.

Enriching children's lives after school

School-age children need safe, constructive activities to engage in each day after school (see the November 1997 *CDF Reports*). Research indicates that children who are left alone after school are at greater risk of truancy, risk-taking behavior, substance abuse, poor grades, and stress. In fact, juvenile crime peaks between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

But there is a dire shortage of programs for school-age children, and just one-third to one-half of the nation's schools have any type of after-school programming. The Campaign for Child Care NOW! would like to see Congress invest sufficient funds to serve all of the nearly 5 million school-age children left home alone each week.

"Children are on their own in empty houses and unsafe streets when they have nowhere to go in the afternoons and evenings," says CDF Assistant General Counsel Kim Wade. "We cannot continue neglecting school-age children at such a critical time for their lives and futures."

The Clinton Administration and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation recently announced joint proposals that take a first step in addressing the problem. The Clinton Administration requested $1 billion over five years for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, which helps schools set up before- and after-school programs. The program enables schools to stay open longer and serve as safe, drug-free havens where children can do homework, receive tutoring and mentoring, and engage in supervised recreational activities. The Mott Foundation has pledged $55 million over five years.

The funds are a welcome increase from FY 1998 funding levels of $40 million and FY 1997 of $1 million. These efforts are a good start but will only reach 500,000 children—just one out of 10 latchkey children.

"This initiative must be supplemented so that communities support a variety of options, in addition to schools, for meeting the need for school-age care," says Wade. "It is important that resources are available to support the families, child care centers, religious organizations, community and youth organizations, and others that help provide care for school-age children."

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Children need quality child care

All children deserve quality child care, but what exactly does *quality* mean? There are several key aspects to quality child care, says CDF Child Care Director Helen Blank. One, children need to be in a safe and healthy environment. Two, children need caregivers who are nurturing, knowledgeable about children's development, and can provide a stable presence in children's lives. Finally, children need to be in a setting where the caregiver can interact with small numbers of children so that each child receives personal attention.

Providing quality care is a costly, labor-intensive undertaking that requires investments in staff training and compensation, as well as materials and facilities. At the same time, though, child care programs struggle to keep child care costs affordable for families. But with child care costing between $4,000 and $10,000 a year per child, and half of America's families with young children earning less than $35,000 per year, it is clear that the numbers don't add up.

Ensuring quality care for our children also requires strong state licensing standards and enforcement. Yet significant numbers of child care settings are not regulated at all or must meet only minimal safety standards. In addition, many states fail to adequately enforce the standards that are in place. It is no surprise then that with little public investment in child care quality, America is facing serious child care challenges.

Many states do not have the resources necessary to help enhance the quality of child care in their communities. As a result, they cannot always share information with families about their child care choices, ensure a good supply of licensed child care providers, or offer child care staff training and adequate compensation.

With additional resources, such as those being discussed in Congress, every state could undertake such efforts and take a more comprehensive approach. Several states are already taking steps to address specific aspects of the quality problem.

Florida: Through its Child Care Initiative, Florida is increasing the availability of licensed and registered family child care homes, especially in targeted areas with a shortage of providers relative to the number of parents receiving welfare. The program focuses on providing training assistance such as job shadowing and mentoring, making loans available to providers who need to be licensed, and creating a consumer education campaign. The initiative aims to increase to more than 1,000 the number of *accredited* centers and family child care homes in the state over three years.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma is improving child care quality through a number of strategies, including investing $1.2 million to hire five licensing supervisors and 27 licensing monitors to inspect child care programs.

North Carolina: North Carolina's Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) initiative invests in compensation and training for caregivers by offering scholarships to help child care teachers, center directors, and family child care providers pursue child care credentials or degrees in child development. Participants can receive wage increases or bonuses when they complete an agreed-upon number of course hours. The program is improving the skills of child care providers and is having a marked effect on staff turnover rates: fewer than 10 percent of child care providers left their jobs during the year, compared with North Carolina's 42 percent previous annual turnover rate.

Many states do not have the resources necessary to help enhance the quality of child care in their communities.

West Virginia: West Virginia has committed a portion of its Child Care and Development Block Grant quality funds to support its first statewide network of resource and referral agencies, including a statewide coordinator and a training library for child care providers.

California: California recently took a positive step in helping parents who receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families learn more about their child care options. County welfare departments now must refer families to local child care resource and referral programs, which will work with parents to help them understand their options and locate good child care.

Common myths about child care

MYTH: There is no child care problem.

RESPONSE: Studies show that families with children are struggling to pay for care, that the quality of care is often mediocre to poor, and that many parents—particularly those with infants, school-age children, children with disabilities, and those working odd hours, or living in low-income communities—are unable to find the care they need.

MYTH: All parents are satisfied with their children's care.

RESPONSE: Ask parents in America about child care and they'll tell you they wish they could do better for their children but can't because the costs are too high, the quality they're looking for does not exist, or the demands of their work schedules limit their choices. In a recent *Parents* magazine poll, more than half the parents who responded admitted that they worry every week whether their child is receiving enough one-on-one attention, eating properly, learning, and adjusting to the care environment. More than half reported having had a very bad experience with child care.

MYTH: The quality of child care doesn't have much impact on a child's development.

RESPONSE: Both common sense and research show that children's brains are growing most quickly during the first three years of life and that their experiences during these critical early years lay the foundation for the rest of their lives. Given these findings, it isn't surprising that studies repeatedly have shown that *good* quality child care—care that provides a loving, nurturing, and stable environment—helps children enter school ready to succeed, improves their skills, and keeps them safe while their parents work. The positive impact of good care is even greater for low-income children. And studies have shown that *poor* quality care—which is too often unstimulating, uncaring, or even unsafe—deprives children of the strong start they need.

MYTH: Child care is not a problem for most families because significant numbers of children are living in homes with a stay-at-home mother.

RESPONSE: Only 23 percent of all families with children younger than age 6—and only one-third of married couples with young children—have one parent who works and one parent who stays home. More parents than ever are working outside the home, and many families rely on the mother's income to make ends meet. A national study found that 55 percent of working women provide *half or more* of their family's income. Many families with young children have no choice but to work outside the home. One of every three children with a working mother either is poor, despite their mother's earnings, or would be poor if their mother didn't work. Nearly 30 percent of all mothers in the work force with children under age 6 are single mothers. In addition, most parents want their children to have some preschool experience before they enter kindergarten—75 percent of all 5-year-olds are cared for on a regular basis in a child care center before they enter kindergarten.

MYTH: Most parents can use free care provided by relatives or friends.

RESPONSE: Although care provided by relatives can be a good option in many cases—one that about one-fourth of America's families use—it is not necessarily the family's preferred option, and it is not always available or free. One national study reported that one-third of employed mothers who used relatives to care for their preschoolers paid for that care.

(See page 12)

Common myths about child care
(Continued from page 11)

Another study of welfare recipients in Illinois revealed that 67 percent of single parents did not have relatives or friends available to provide inexpensive or free care. It is important that we help all families make the choices they want—by helping them afford their first choice of care, whether it be a relative, neighbor, neighborhood child care home, or child care center.

MYTH: Lack of child care is not a barrier to work.

RESPONSE: Parents cannot go to work each day unless they have safe, reliable care for their children. Studies have shown that child care problems can cause parents to miss work or lose their jobs and that the lack of child care is a primary barrier preventing welfare recipients from getting and keeping jobs. Child care assistance is therefore key to efforts to move families from welfare to work and to help low-income parents stay employed.

MYTH: Parents can always find enough quality child care.

RESPONSE: Numerous studies demonstrate widespread shortages of child care, particularly for infants and for school-age children. A national study found that demand for infant care far exceeded the supply in the majority of cities examined. In Boulder, Colo., and San Francisco, staff from child care agencies reported that women had lost their jobs and returned to welfare because they couldn't find care for their infants. Severe shortages in school-age care were also found in Bath, Maine, Birmingham, Ala., Chicago, and San Francisco. Data also show that public schools in low-income communities are far less likely to offer prekindergarten programs (16 percent) than are schools in more affluent areas (nearly 33 percent) or to offer extended-day and enrichment programs that can help keep children safe after school. Furthermore, when parents locate child care, it is often of poor quality. According to the Carnegie Corporation, child care and early education services in the United States "have so long been neglected that they now constitute some of the worst services for children in Western society." The care most children receive not only can "threaten their immediate health and safety, but also can compromise their long-term development."

MYTH: Welfare reform won't increase demand for child care.

RESPONSE: There is widespread agreement that welfare reform will significantly increase the demand for child care and that the current supply of child care is insufficient to meet that demand. For example, a 1997 General Accounting Office study reported that the increased work participation requirements of the welfare law will cause the need for child care to exceed the supply, particularly for infants and school-age children. In Chicago, the supply could meet only 17 percent of the need for school-age care and only 12 percent of the need for infant care under welfare reform. A recent study in New York City estimated that an additional 61,000 children could need child care services by the end of 1999 because of welfare reform. The city had only provided funds for 27,500 of them, leaving potentially 33,500 unserved.

MYTH: Child care proposals call for big government solutions, such as government-run child care centers or for all children to be in "institutionalized" care.

RESPONSE: This myth is wrong on two fronts. First, there are no government-run centers. Child care centers are either operated on a for-profit or nonprofit basis and are often run by community agencies, religious institutions, or local youth-serving groups such as the YMCA or YWCA. Second, no child care proposal directs children to child care centers. Instead, they allow parents to select from a range of choices—neighborhood child care homes, relatives, child care centers, and neighbors—whatever option they believe is best for their children. Many of the current child care proposals also provide tax credits to families when one parent stays at home.

MYTH: Businesses can pay for child care.

RESPONSE: While a number of businesses have implemented creative approaches to help their employees find and pay for child care, much more should be done. At this point, only a fraction of businesses address child care problems, and business expenditures account for only a small percentage (1 percent) of total child care spending.

Furthermore, more than 60 percent of women work for small businesses. These businesses often find it more difficult than larger ones to provide on-site child care (or other benefits) to help parents find and afford child care.

Businesses must do more to assist their employees with balancing the demands of work and family. For example, they should help defray child care costs for those earning low and moderate wages, provide information about child care, and support efforts to improve care in their communities. Yet, businesses cannot be expected to offer all the solutions. The private sector isn't going to be able to solve this problem alone, any more than the federal government can solve it alone. It's going to take all of us, working together in our families, our businesses, our neighborhoods, our places of worship, and with our elected officials.

For additional myths and responses, or for general information about child care, contact CDF's Child Care Division at 202-662-3544, or visit CDF's Web site, www.childrensdefense.org.

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Police officials urge child care investments

Citing the connection between quality child care and crime prevention, a group of more than 170 law enforcement officials is urging lawmakers to make greater investments in children's healthy development.

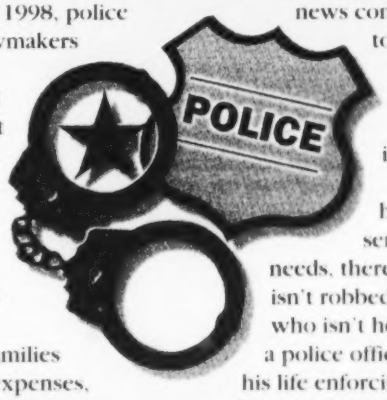
"Quality educational child care for preschool children and after-school activities for school-age youngsters are among the most powerful weapons in America's anti-crime arsenal," the group said in a new report from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a Washington, D.C.-based organization.

Photo © Rick Reinhard

Melvin Wearing, chief of police in New Haven, Conn., urges lawmakers to invest in child care at a Capitol Hill news conference.

"Our federal and state governments are falling far short of the investment in child care and after-school programs needed to meet their responsibility to protect the public safety," they said. "That shortfall is part of a gaping crime prevention deficit that jeopardizes the safety of every American."

With Congress poised to consider a child care initiative in 1998, police officials are urging lawmakers to put additional resources into the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), Head Start, and Early Head Start. The officials also believe Congress should increase funding for the Dependent Care Tax Credit, which helps families with their child care expenses, and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program for school-age children (see box, page 7).



The report, *Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Key Weapons Against Crime*, points to strong evidence of the impact good quality child care can have on a child's development. Studies in Michigan and New York, for example, reported that programs for at-risk children under age 5 cut their risk of later delinquency and chronic lawbreaking by 80 percent to 90 percent. In Baltimore, an analysis of an after-school program reported that it reduced neighborhood crime by 42 percent.

According to the report, 92 percent of police chiefs nationwide agree that America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a "good start" in life.

One police chief advocating strongly for greater investments in child care is Melvin Wearing, chief of police for New Haven, Conn. At an early February news conference, Wearing told lawmakers that investing in children may be expensive, but that not investing is more expensive. "When [a] child has received the services he or she needs, there may be a store that isn't robbed, an elderly woman who isn't held up at gunpoint, or a police officer who doesn't lose his life enforcing the law."

He joined child advocates and a bipartisan group of lawmakers in urging passage of the Healthy and Smoke-Free Children Act, S.1492, a bill sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.). The bill would increase the tobacco tax by $1.50 over three years to provide revenue for child care programs while curbing teen smoking.

"For years, tobacco companies have targeted children and teenagers to make them life-long tobacco addicts," he said. "I fully support legislation to deter smoking, increase the tobacco tax, and use the revenue for early childhood education and after-school programs."

Copies of the report, Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Key Weapons Against Crime, *are available from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 202-638-0690; www.fightcrime.org.*

A look at where we stand after 25 years of work on behalf of children

(Continued from page 2)

supplementing their incomes until they reach the federal poverty line ($16,050 for a family of four in 1997). A program in Texas is increasing the business community's support for local child care. Through the Corporate Champions Program, 10 companies have donated funds to help support child care centers, develop resource and referral services for member companies' employees, and provide equipment grants and scholarships for centers and family child care providers.

A Maryland initiative has increased health care for teens by contracting with school-based centers. In Allegheny County, Pa., a 30 percent drop in the number of youths arrested for violent crimes has been recorded, thanks to an initiative that prompted local law enforcement and child-serving agencies to work together. And in Kentucky, communities are establishing neighborhood centers where families can go to receive emergency financial assistance, health care, or help with parenting skills— all under one roof.

Communities everywhere can learn from these innovative projects and do much more for children in years to come.

Order The State of America's Children Yearbook 1998 *from CDF Publications, 25 E Street NW, Washington DC 20001; 202-662-3652; $14.95 per copy plus $2 for shipping and handling. Also available from CDF is* Children in the States 1998, *state-by-state tables detailing children's status and participation in a variety of programs; $4.95.*

Short Takes

Study finds no link between minimum wage hike, job loss

The federal minimum wage increase that took effect beginning Oct. 1, 1996, did not result in widespread job loss, according to reports from the nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute (EPI). Instead, the benefits of the two-step wage boost (from $4.25 per hour to $5.15 per hour) have gone primarily to low-income working families, 40 percent of whom received more than half the gains attributed to the increase.

The Sky Hasn't Fallen: An Evaluation of the Minimum-Wage Increase studies the first installment of the raise (to $4.75 an hour) and shows that, contrary to the claims of those opposed to the wage increase, employment opportunities for teens and young adults were not adversely affected by the wage hike. EPI updated its findings in a look at the full 90-cent increase and found that close to 10 million workers will benefit, 71 percent of whom are adults.

The findings may help bolster arguments that Congress should raise the minimum wage further to ensure that low-wage workers are earning family-supporting incomes, says CDF Family Income Director Deborah Weinstein, noting that full-time work at minimum wage only provides income equivalent to 83 percent of the 1997 poverty threshold for a family of three.

"With record-breaking numbers of poor children in working families, it is critically important to move minimum wage workers out of poverty," Weinstein says.

President Clinton called for a further increase in the minimum wage in his State of the Union address. Two weeks later, the President and House and Senate Democratic leaders agreed to back 50-cent increases in each of two years, raising the minimum wage to $6.15 in January 2000. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. David Bonior (D-Mich.) are expected to introduce the new legislation in March.

EPI's initial report is based on data from the U.S. government's *Current Population Survey* covering the period from October to March. The update, *America's Well-Targeted Raise*, shows some of the effects of the second phase of the minimum wage increase, which occurred on Sept. 1, 1997, and boosted the hourly rate from $4.75 to $5.15. A fuller report will be released later in the spring.

For copies of The Sky Hasn't Fallen: An Evaluation of the Minimum-Wage Increase *and* America's Well-Targeted Raise, *call 1-800-EPI-4844 or visit EPI's Web site at www.epinet. org.*

Photo © Tara C. Paty

Web routinely infringes on children's privacy

An overwhelming majority of Web sites catering to children are gathering personal information without prominently posting confidentiality statements or obtaining parental permission, according to a recent survey conducted by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

During "Kids' Privacy Surf Day" last fall, FTC staff found that 86 percent of the sites visited were collecting names, e-mail addresses, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers from children. The sites did not seek parental permission to do so nor advise parents of a way to control the collection and use of the data their children were providing.

This month the FTC is beginning an in-depth study of information collection practices on Web sites, which will be forwarded to Congress. Meanwhile, as a follow-up to its preliminary survey, the FTC has already been informing organizations that they are involved in unlawful, deceptive, and/or unfair practices by asking children to provide marketing survey data while on-line for entertainment or educational purposes without posting an advisory.

Advocates with concerns about children's privacy on the Internet should visit the FTC Web site at www.ftc.gov or write to the Consumer Response Center, Room 130, 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580. The Center for Media Education also provides resources for advocates at http://tap.epn.org/cme/.

Break free of TV during National TV Turn-off Week

Millions of families and thousands of schools, libraries, and community organizations will participate in the fourth annual National TV Turn-off Week, April 22–28, by leaving their television sets off for seven days and turning instead to learning, sharing, playing, and other positive activities for children and adults.

For help organizing a TV "turn-off," write TV-Free America, 1611 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 3A, Washington, DC 20009; call 202-887-0436; fax 202-518-5560, or e-mail tvfa@essential.org. A National TV Turn-off Week organizer's kit, with a guidebook, posters, bumper stickers, pledge cards, list of substitute activities, and TV statistics, is available for $10.

Mark your calendar: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

CDF welcomes new board members and staff

CDF welcomes two new members to its Board of Directors: **J. Michael Solar** and **Leslie Cornfeld-Urfirer**. Solar is an attorney and civic leader in Houston. His firm, Solar & Fernandes, L.L.P., deals in litigation and international law. Solar, a graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, is a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Houston Branch, and is a recipient of community service awards from the Mexican American Opportunities Foundation and the League of United Latin American Citizens.

Leslie Cornfeld-Urfirer is a deputy chief in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern Division for New York City. A graduate of Harvard Law School and a magna cum laude undergraduate in government from Harvard College, Cornfeld-Urfirer was cofounder of the university's Children's Rights Project. Prior to joining the Department of Justice, she was deputy chief counsel for the Mollen Commission, which investigated corruption in the New York City Police Department in the early 1990s. Cornfeld-Urfirer is also a member of the National Alliance to End Homelessness and is a volunteer attorney with the organization Lawyers for Children. She is a member of the advisory council of the Institute for Children and Poverty.

Diane Minor is CDF's new director of publications. She oversees *CDF Reports*, as well as the Web site and product line. An award-winning journalist and public relations professional, Minor most recently served as director of communications for the National Organization for Women and formerly held a similar post with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In February, CDF welcomed its new chief operating officer **Patricia A. Owens** to its Washington headquarters. Charged with day-to-day staff oversight in this newly created position, Owens will serve as operations director while CDF President Marian Wright Edelman shifts more of her focus to public speaking, coalition and movement building, and CDF's long-term development.

Patricia A. Owens

An experienced senior manager for children's organizations, Owens was most recently the executive director of the Freedom Valley Girl Scout Council in Valley Forge, Pa., an organization with a membership of 23,000. She also held a similar position with the Girl Scouts in southern New Jersey. Owens is a magna cum laude graduate from the University of Pennsylvania and holds an MBA from the Wharton School with a concentration in finance, public policy, and management.

The Policy and Programs Department has also added two new staff members who are spearheading major advocacy campaigns nationwide.

Cheryl Amey is coordinator for the new Community Monitoring Project. Dr. Amey, who recently completed her doctorate at the University of Florida, is a "hands-on" sociologist who has experience developing advocacy networks. She also headed an anti-hunger organization in North Carolina before undertaking her doctoral studies.

The Community Monitoring Project is a new initiative funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Ford Foundation. CDF's goal is to increase the effectiveness of community-based advocacy efforts by supporting the efforts of local advocates as they work to identify the impact of recent social policy changes on the well-being of children and their families.

Jeannette O'Connor brings experience in grassroots and coalition development to the newly created post of children's health implementation coordinator. O'Connor is working with CDF's health and field staff as states develop programs to insure low-income children under CHIP with its $48 billion in federal funds. Most recently, O'Connor worked for a Washington, D.C., public affairs consulting firm, Powell Tate. Previously, she served as Northeast regional director for the AFL-CIO's Labor '96 project, and was coordinator for the Women Vote! project at EMILY'S List in Washington, D.C.

Kim Adler is CDF's new senior child watch associate. In this position, Adler has primary responsibility for development and management of the Regional Trainers Initiative, which is designed to help new communities use the Child Watch Visitation Program as an advocacy tool.

Adler comes to CDF from Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety where she served as manager of state affairs. Previously, she worked for the Association of Junior Leagues, providing technical assistance and training in the areas of public policy, advocacy, and education.

Join the CDF Update E-mail Network!

Receive information weekly from CDF via e-mail on key policy issues affecting children, including child care, child protection, child health, juvenile justice, and family income.

To subscribe, visit CDF's Web site at www.childrensdefense.org or send an e-mail to: majordomo@automailer.com and write in the body of the message: subscribe cdfupdate [your e-mail address].

Necessary

News from the Black Community Crusade for Children

Black leaders unite to oppose S.10

African American leaders from around the country met in Washington in January to work to ensure that children are not sacrificed on the altar of election-year politics. The leaders came in support of the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) efforts to defeat a Senate bill that would lock up children in adult jails and prisons.

Bill is a "political figleaf"

S.10 could come up for a floor vote soon, pushed by politicians who want to appear tough on crime in an election year. A similar bill has already passed the House. No group supports S.10, but it continues to move forward.

"This bill must be stopped because it will only accelerate the demonization, criminalization, imprisonment, and disempowerment of America's children," says Kelley-Sease.

"This bill is nothing but a political figleaf," said CDF President Marian Wright Edelman. "It's not about protecting children. It's not about reducing crime. It's not about crime prevention. It is about turning back the clock to a time when children were abused by adults in jail, or adult criminals became their role models, further cementing a life of crime instead of helping to turn a life around."

BCCC National Director Barbara Kelley-Sease says S.10 will end protections that have been in place for more than two decades to keep children out of adult jails and prisons. Children held in adult jails are eight times more likely to commit suicide, five times more likely to be sexually assaulted, and two times more likely to be beaten by prison staff than children in secure juvenile facilities.

No prevention, big penalties

S.10 also fails to guarantee any money for after-school activities and other programs that prevent crime, and it does nothing to address the critical role guns play in driving crime. It would open the records of children who are arrested (not even convicted) for any offense (whether violent or not), to schools, colleges, and the FBI. This move would seriously hinder educational and employment prospects for millions of children. The bill would also require children to be expelled from school for using cigarettes, beer, and marijuana.

"This bill must be stopped because it will only accelerate the demonization, criminalization, imprisonment, and disempowerment of America's children," says Kelley-Sease.

Black leaders visit children held in local adults jails

The BCCC, a network of child-serving organizations and advocates coordinated nationally by CDF, held a National Lobby Day on Jan. 28 for Black religious, law enforcement, community, and national leaders, as well as students. The group met in Washington, D.C., with senators, administration officials, and members of the media to urge them to oppose S.10.

They also visited children in a local adult jail to see firsthand how they were housed. The children they saw were awaiting trial but were let out of their cells for just a few hours each week and received no education.

Photo © Human Issues Collaborative

The BCCC is leading a fight against S.10, a bill that would allow children to be housed in adults jails and prisons.

The Lobby Day grew out of a meeting held in December at the Former Alex Haley Farm, where more than 80 African American educators, clergy, community leaders, and young adults discussed several critical issues affecting our children, including S.10 and the criminalization of minority youths.

Jesselyn McCurdy is the new coordinator for the BCCC's Judges' Leadership Council (JLC), which includes juvenile and family court judges who are working to effect change in the system and in the community. She comes to the BCCC from the American Bar Association's Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities. A graduate of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, McCurdy holds a law degree from Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America. For a new brochure on the JLC, call CDF Publications at 202-662-3652.

Field Strategies

by Corina Cortez, CDF Field Director

Join the Campaign for Child Care NOW!

A coalition of local, state, and national organizations and CDF are waging the Campaign for Child Care NOW! to urge Congress to pass legislation that will improve the quality and affordability of child care and after-school activities.

Everyone can and should join this campaign — child care providers, child advocates, parents, teachers, and community leaders, as well as religious, educational, women's, seniors', law enforcement, and labor organizations. By participating, you can play a vital role in making real improvements in children's lives.

Here are some strategies for ensuring that your community, legislators, and the media understand the importance of child care.

Engaging community members

Whether your community is a small town or a large city, think about ways to involve everyone you know both professionally and socially. Go places where you can reach parents — PTA meetings, soccer games, school board meetings, and places of worship — and hand out information or talk informally about child care. You will find that almost all parents, regardless of their income levels, have had experience with child care and understand the importance of quality, affordable care.

Also explore meetings held by other community organizations. You may not belong to the local seniors' or women's organizations or labor union, but it's likely that you know someone who does. Approach these individuals about speaking on child care at a future meeting or helping you get onto the organization's agenda.

If you belong to a group that is part of a broader coalition, urge the coalition to make child care a priority issue for 1998. Use its fax network, newsletter, and Web site to distribute child care information on a regular basis. Contact the Campaign for Child Care NOW! hotline at 202-662-3671.

Persuading members of Congress

When informing people about child care, suggest that they contact their members of Congress to urge them to pass comprehensive child care legislation. (For a sample letter to Congress and information about the Campaign for Child Care NOW!, see pages 9-10 or visit www.childrensdefense.org.)

Distribute sample letters at meetings. Take paper and envelopes with you to encourage others to create letters that incorporate their own experiences. Volunteer to mail the signed letters.

Calling members of Congress, particularly before a crucial vote, is another key way to let them know voters in their districts care. To reach them, call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121. Most members of Congress also have e-mail; visit www.congress.org on the Web for a list of congressional names and e-mail addresses.

An easy way for child care providers to have contact with their representative or senators is to invite them for a visit to the center. This allows members to see the center firsthand, gives parents dropping off their children a chance to express to the guest the importance of quality child care, and directs media attention to local child care needs.

Reaching the media

Reporters prefer local information because it makes their stories more compelling. Collect local and state child care data before contacting newspaper, radio, and television reporters. (Call 202-662-3671 for state fact sheets.)

Contact your local newspaper to determine who covers children's or family issues; then call and introduce yourself. Offer to send the reporter information about the Campaign for Child Care NOW! Once you have established a working relationship, you can expect the reporter to start calling you for more information when pursuing future stories.

Everyone can and should join this campaign — child care providers, child advocates, parents, teachers, and community leaders, as well as religious, educational, women's, seniors', law enforcement, and labor organizations.

You can also contact your local newspaper's editorial board and request a meeting to discuss child care. When you visit the editorial board, bring along a small but diverse group of people. For example, invite a working parent who uses child care or a police officer who understands the problems caused by a lack of quality after-school activities. Another way to draw attention to child care is by writing a letter to the editor or an opinion-editorial article.

We hope you will take an active role in making the Campaign for Child Care NOW! a success. We look forward to working with you to pass comprehensive child care legislation this year. To join us, return a completed action flier (see page 9).

One step for children

Plan an event in your community to Stand For Quality Child Care on June 1, 1998

(see page 4)

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Of Note

Conferences

April 16-19 — 21st Save the Children National Family Child Care Conference, Atlanta, Ga. For information, contact the conference office at Save the Children Child Care Support Center, 1447 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30309-3030, 404-479-4225.

April 19-21 — Parenthood in America, Madison, Wis., sponsored by the University of Wisconsin. For more information, call 1-800-442-4617.

June 13-17 — Developing Local Systems of Care in a Managed Care Environment for Children and Adolescents with Severe Emotional Disturbances, Orlando, Fla., funded by the Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. For more information, contact the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at Georgetown University, 3307 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20007, 202-687-5000.

Film and resource book

Learn & Live, a new documentary hosted by Robin Williams, highlights the country's effective educational programs and offers numerous resources to help improve public schools. The film comes with a 300-page resource book. Both are available for $20 through the George Lucas Educational Foundation, 1-888-475-4371 (California residents add $1.65 sales tax) or can be rented free at participating Blockbuster video stores.

Publications

A new booklet from the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law helps parents and advocates interpret the eligibility rules enacted as part of the 1996 welfare law. ***SSI—Help for Children with Disabilities*** explains in everyday language how children can qualify for monthly cash benefits and Medicaid coverage provided by the program. To order for $3 plus $2 shipping, write Publications Desk, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, 1101 15th St. NW, Suite 1212, Washington, DC 20005-5002.

The National Education Goals Report: Building a Nation of Learners 1997, presents data on 33 state and 26 national core indicators for the eight national education goals set by President Bush and the nation's governors in 1989. An accompanying publication, ***Special Early Childhood Report 1997***, focuses on 10 Goal 1 indicators (by the year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn). To obtain these free reports, send a fax to the Goals Panel at 202-632-0957 or e-mail, NEGP@goalline.org.

NAEP 1996 Trends in Academic Progress, free from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, measures student academic achievement. To order, write the National Library of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20208-5641, or call 1-800-424-1616.

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Children's Defense Fund
25 Years
LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND

CDF Reports

Marian Wright Edelman,
President

April/May 1998
Volume 19, Numbers 4/5

Child Care NOW!

Study reveals working families are locked out of child care

Inadequate federal and state funding prevents nine out of 10 children in low-income working families from getting needed child care assistance, according to a new study from CDF.

As a result of this striking shortfall, millions of hardworking families are locked out of the child care they need to keep their jobs and stay off welfare, according to *Locked Doors: States Struggling to Meet the Child Care Needs of Low-Income Working Families*. CDF's study is based on recent surveys of child care administrators from the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

According to *Locked Doors*, "Enormous gaps still remain in our efforts to help low-income parents work and take care of their children. Much more needs to be done to ensure that families on welfare have the child care assistance they need to get and keep jobs, *without* sacrificing low-income working families who are struggling to keep their jobs and stay off welfare."

The report provides a detailed account of the multiple problems low-income families face as they struggle to afford the high cost of child care—easily $4,000 to $10,000 a year for just one preschool child.

Many low-income families cannot qualify for help

Many parents do not qualify for help with their child care expenses because a number of states assist only families receiving welfare or those with very low annual incomes. For example, West Virginia does not help a family of three earning above $15,000 a year. The income eligibility cutoff in Iowa and South Carolina for a family of three is approximately $16,700.

In 14 states, families earning $20,000 a year (roughly 150 percent of poverty for a family of three) or more cannot qualify for help. In 32 states, families earning $25,000 a year (roughly

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Study reveals working families are locked out of child care

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185 percent of poverty for a family of three) or more cannot receive help.

Eligible families face too many barriers

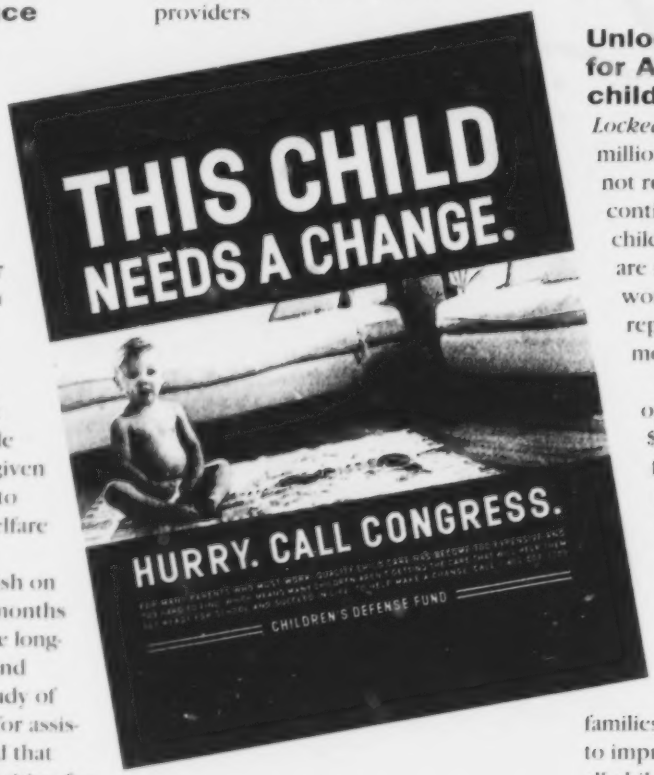
Because of scarce resources, many families who are eligible for assistance simply do not receive it. As recently as January, according to *Locked Doors*, an eligible working family applying for assistance would have been placed on a waiting list or turned away in 24 states. That's because these states have not invested sufficient resources to serve all eligible families and typically have given priority for child care help to families who are leaving welfare for work.

Too often families languish on child care waiting lists for months or even years. This can cause long-term problems for parents and children. For example, a study of families on the waiting list for assistance in Minnesota reported that one-fourth of the families waiting for child care help had to go on welfare to survive. Of those families who were working and paying for care, most went into debt or faced bankruptcy. Some found it difficult to stay employed because of unstable child care arrangements. One-third felt their children's child care situations threatened their safety and development, and many parents experienced severe stress as a result of financial worries and concern about their children's well-being.

Moreover, because states often discourage families from applying for help or fail to publicize the availability of subsidies, waiting lists grossly underestimate the actual number of families who need assistance.

Assistance to families is often inadequate

State child care investments are so meager that even when families do qualify for assistance, it is often insufficient to afford safe, good quality care or to make ends meet, according to *Locked Doors*. For instance, child care subsidy rates in many states are so low that many providers accept either a limited number of subsidized children or do not accept them at all. This means that parents are forced to choose providers who offer cheaper (often worse quality) care or must pay providers additional fees on top of their existing copayments to cover the providers' charges.



One of three posters designed pro bono by Minneapolis advertising agency Fallon McElligott for the Campaign for Child Care NOW! To join the campaign and place free posters, newspaper ads and TV public service announcements in your community, contact the Campaign for Child Care NOW! hotline at 202-662-3671.

And many states pay inadequate subsidy rates that are based on outdated information about the real cost of care. The report revealed that 16 states base their subsidy amounts on market rate surveys that are more than two years out of date. Connecticut, Maine, and Rhode Island use surveys that are five to seven years old.

States generally require families who are receiving child care assistance to pay parent fees or family copayments. Yet in some states, fees or copayments are set so high that child care expenses remain a staggering burden. In South Dakota, for example, a parent earning $1,670 a month must contribute $500 per month (roughly 30 percent of the family's income) in order to get a child care subsidy.

Unlocking the doors for America's neediest children

Locked Doors makes clear that millions of low-income families are not receiving the help they need to continue working and to ensure their children's health and safety. "If we are serious about putting parents to work and protecting children," the report states, "we need to invest more in child care help for families."

America has an unprecedented opportunity to guarantee at least $20 billion over five years in new funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, as Congress considers comprehensive legislation, including an increase in the tobacco tax, designed to increase child care help for families. These funds would be available to help states serve all low-income families who need child care assistance; to improve the quality of child care for all children; and to provide safe, constructive activities for the nearly 5 million children left home alone after school each day.

"Enabling families to work and helping children to thrive means giving states enough money so that they can set reasonable eligibility levels, let families know that help is available, and take working families off the waiting lists," says CDF Child Care Director Helen Blank. "It means paying reasonable child care subsidy rates and setting fees that parents earning low wages can afford."

Blank continues, "Millions of families across the country face barriers each day that prevent them from finding good, affordable child care. Now is the time for Congress to act—before these problems become even more serious in coming years."

To order Locked Doors: States Struggling to Meet the Child Care Needs of Low-Income Working Families, *available for $4.95, contact CDF Fulfillment (see page 8 for ordering information).*

CDF Reports

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A Voice for Children

by CDF President Marian Wright Edelman

Carrying on the legacy of Dr. King

April marked the 30th anniversary of the tragic assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Much attention has been paid to the *past* and to what Dr. King was able to accomplish before his death. But how many of us have taken a look at where Dr. King would want us to be today and what his legacy holds for the *future?*

As Dr. King once said, "Ultimately a great nation is a compassionate nation. No individual or nation can be great if it does not have a concern for 'the least of these.'"

Surely if Dr. King were alive today, he would call on our country to help America's working families who cannot afford the safe, nurturing child care and after-school activities that are so important to their children's healthy development. Today, about half of America's families with young children earn less than $35,000 a year, and two parents working at minimum wage earn only $21,400. But quality child care easily costs more than public college—about $4,000 to $10,000 annually.

. . . It's time to listen to America's families.

Surely Dr. King would urge our nation to stand up for children by meeting the child care needs of all families eligible for help under federal law. As the United States experiences continued economic growth, it is appalling that millions of our neediest families are locked out of child care because of inadequate funding, unreasonable eligibility rules, inadequate state policies, and severe shortages of quality care.

Child care is a critical link to families' well-being in a number of ways. Child care can help working parents rise out of poverty by enabling them to hold down jobs and know their children are safe and well cared for while they are at work. One of the issues for which Dr. King died and on which there has not been much progress is child poverty. In May, as we mark the 30th anniversary of the Poor People's March on Washington—which, despite the slaying of Dr. King, went forth to carry on his legacy—the number of children living in poverty is still deplorably high. More than one in five of all children is poor, and 69 percent of them live in a family where someone works.

Child care can also help prevent child abuse and neglect. As we recognized Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, we had to acknowledge that in 1996 alone, nearly 1 million children were abused or neglected. Most child abuse occurs when families are under stress. But studies show that parents assured of the availability of quality child care experience less stress and greater family well-being.

Good school-age care, including constructive after-school programs, can help keep children safe, engaged in learning, and out of trouble. Unfortunately, while nearly 5 million children are left home alone after school each week—at risk of smoking, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol use, and violence—Congress is poised to consider S.10, a harmful bill that would lock up children in adult jails rather than invest in crime prevention.

If Dr. King were with us today, he'd tell lawmakers it's time to listen to America's families. I hope Congress will address the child care needs of working low- and moderate-income parents by approving an increase of at least $20 billion over five years in guaranteed funds for the Child Care and Development Block Grant through tobacco legislation, a budget surplus, or the reordering of less important spending priorities. These funds would allow states to provide help directly to families so they can afford quality child care, improve the quality of child care, and create more constructive opportunities for older children before and after school.

Let us carry on Dr. King's legacy—and let us show we are a compassionate people—by ensuring that all children are safe and that we Leave No Child Behind.

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Welfare in the States

CDF, new studies look at status of former welfare recipients

A single mother of two who used to be on welfare learns new computer skills that earn her a data entry job at a government agency. The older of her two sons, who both attend an expanded before-and after-school Head Start program near their home, is so proud that he writes a paper for class entitled, "My Mother, My Hero."

Blocks away, another single mother of two also begins work each day at 8 a.m. as a clerk through the state's "welfare-to-work" program. She leaves work at 6 p.m. each day, then takes a bus to a low-cost child care center to pick up her children, then another bus home, arriving there at 8 p.m. The family reverses that route at 6 a.m. the next morning. After two months of this routine, one child gets sick. The mother then calls in sick and shortly after loses her job.

"Getting off welfare is not equal to getting out of poverty."

Which is a more common scenario for this nation's poor mothers and children a year and a half after Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was replaced by Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)? Unfortunately, that's a difficult question to answer. Consider the findings from one federal agency, nearly a dozen state studies, and several local community monitoring projects.

Federal government notes sharp declines in welfare rolls

The number of people receiving welfare a year after TANF's enactment in August 1996 dropped by 20 percent nationwide, according to data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (See table, page 12). Among the 27 states that had even steeper declines than the 20 percent national average, 12 of them had declines of 30 percent or more, and five states had declines of 40 percent or more.

"We know far too little about why caseloads are dropping and far too little about what happens to families who leave welfare," says CDF Family Income Director Deborah Weinstein. "Some of the decline is for the best of reasons because the economy is chugging along and more people are finding good jobs.

"But for some it is for the worst of reasons," she adds, "because there are so many hurdles now that families can't surmount them when they're in crisis. Or parents are so troubled that they can't comply with rules, are dropped from the roles, and no one cares. These families, this generation of poor children, are the great unknown of our national welfare experiment."

States show former recipients in poverty

A newly released report by the National Conference of State Legislatures revealed that 40 percent to 60 percent of those who leave welfare obtain employment, but at below poverty-level wages ($13,330 a year for a family of three in 1997). The report, which compiled nine different studies states had commissioned, also revealed that about one-fifth of the families in the states surveyed returned to welfare within a few months.

Families who lost assistance because they had not complied with program rules (i.e., were "sanctioned") tended to work and earn less than those who left welfare on their own. Many survey respondents said they were better off than when on welfare, but troubling numbers said they were worse off. In Iowa, 49 percent of those who lost cash assistance reported that their income decreased. In South Carolina, 50 percent reported being behind in rent or utility bills after leaving welfare, compared with 35 percent when they were receiving welfare. Most respondents needed subsidies to afford child care and health coverage.

Additional evidence of low earnings

Studies of two other states — Michigan and New York — used information about wages that employers reported to the unemployment insurance system to determine how people are moving from welfare to work.

A study that tracked Michigan single parents who received AFDC and then TANF reported they had low earnings and high job turnover, according to the Milwaukee-based Employment and Training Institute. Although 72 percent of those leaving welfare in the first quarter of 1996 worked for at least some period over the next year, half of those who found work in that first quarter were unemployed or only marginally employed one year later.

Although 38 percent of TANF recipients showed full-time employment as of September 1996, only 28 percent remained employed two months later and had earnings of at least $2,500 in both that quarter and the first quarter of 1997.

Among those who left welfare for work in September 1996, only 16 percent earned above-poverty wages. The average wage as of September 1996 was $5.90 an hour, and 81 percent earned less than $7 an hour. "Getting off welfare is not equal to getting out of poverty," Weinstein says.

A similar study by the state of New York found that only one-fifth to one-third of those who left welfare found jobs. A major contributing factor may well be New York City's high unemployment rate, which, at more than 9 percent, is nearly double the national average.

(See page 12)

Stand For Children!

Communities set to Stand For Quality Child Care

As the third annual Stand For Children Day approaches, organizers who last year won the biggest breakthrough on children's health in more than 30 years are planning to make an equally strong case for the child care needs of working parents. As a result of the 1997 Stand For Healthy Children Day and other grassroots efforts, Congress enacted the landmark $48 billion State Children's Health Insurance Program. Now millions of children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford private insurance can receive the health care they need.

On and about June 1, local communities and on-line activists will Stand For Quality Child Care in a variety of ways. Rallies and marches, festivals, book drives, letter-writing campaigns, worship services, field trips, and other activities will heighten awareness of the nation's child care needs, and advocates will press for more federal, state, and local investments in quality, affordable child care and after-school activities.

"The astounding success of last year's Stand For Healthy Children proved that communities can pull together to make a difference in children's lives," says Stand For Children Executive Director Jonah Edelman. "Good, affordable child care providing the safe and nurturing environments that children need to learn, develop, and reach their full potential is something everyone should stand up for."

Photo © Bob Dawson

How communities are taking a stand

People are banding together in every state and the District of Columbia as part of the more than 130 Stand For Children Chapters that have been formed since the historic Stand demonstration at the Lincoln Memorial on June 1, 1996. Chapter members are taking the lead with plans for Stand For Children Day 1998, which are well underway in hundreds of communities—large, small, urban, and rural.

About 3,000 people are expected to attend a "Make Space for Kids" family day and street fair in downtown San Francisco on May 31. The event will highlight the need for additional child care in the Bay Area, where in San Francisco alone more than 6,000 parents are estimated to be on the waiting list for child care help.

"We're going to be pushing for more child care facilities, more funding to rehabilitate unoccupied buildings and facilities so they can be used as child care centers, and working to get more support for family day care," says Ken Bravmann, an event organizer and membership coordinator for Coleman Advocates for Youth, one of several organizations planning the festivities. "It's really a community building exercise and we expect to bring a lot of people together."

Representatives from more than 50 local children's service providers and advocacy groups will be on hand to provide families with information and resources. In addition, individuals will have a chance to write postcards urging political leaders to remember children's needs as they approve the city's budget.

(See page 6)

Stand For Children!

(Continued from page 5)

In Minneapolis, one chapter is planning a child care rally on June 6, which is expected to draw nearly 10,000 people. The event will feature free entertainment, speakers, display booths, and children's activities, and will showcase high-quality local child care centers and after-school programs, says chapter leader Tom Fitzpatrick.

Photo © Diane Adam

Young children from San Francisco share their positive preschool experiences with local lawmakers during a "Baby Brigade" event last year.

On June 1 in Philadelphia, teams of high school students, community members, and political leaders will visit area child care centers, where they will give out books and read to children. Organizers planned the activity to raise awareness about child care and to interest teens in reading to children at the centers on a continuing basis.

"Our goal isn't necessarily to do a big event, but rather to plan something that is sustainable," says chapter leader Rosemarie Matthews, director of community outreach for Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth. "We wanted an event that was manageable that we could invite young people to, and where agencies participating could receive something in return. Many of them will get not only books but also volunteers."

San Antonio will host a march on June 6 as part of Stand For Children Day. Mayor Howard Peak, Rep. Ciro Rodriguez (D-Texas), and local business and religious leaders will speak about child care before a gathering of about 2,000 people, says Margaret Armendariz, the city's Stand coordinator.

Children will create a large papier-mâché flame to remind those who take the Stand pledge that it's important to stand for children every day, says Armendariz. Popular Tejano musician Emilio Nervada will debut a song he composed especially for the event.

Here's a look at what several other communities are planning as 1998 Stand For Quality Child Care events:

- In Boston, thousands will march on the state capitol to demand quality care for all Massachusetts children. Area bookstores are donating 1,300 books to local child care centers to recognize the 13,000 children on waiting lists for state child care assistance.
- In Largo, Fla., the Pinellas County chapter will honor a high-quality child care facility, which will in turn "adopt" a child care facility and help it achieve accreditation.
- In Reno, Nev., more than 1,000 people are expected to attend a parade and festival, which will pass through the campus of the University of Reno and the casino district. Afterwards, there will be a ceremony to recognize government officials and business leaders who are working for quality child care.
- In Wilmington, Del., Mayor James Sills Jr., state legislators, community activists, members of the media, and chapter members will participate in a CDF Child Watch Visitation Program. They'll tour local neighborhoods to learn about before- and after-school programs and will visit home-based child care facilities and child care centers.

Ongoing commitments to children and young people

Individuals and organizations participating in Stand For Children Day this June will focus primarily on child care, but their commitment to children will not end then. Throughout the year, chapter members and other child advocates will continue striving to better the lives of children in their communities.

For example, since the 1997 Stand, advocates in California's Bay Area have been busy conducting training sessions on how to lobby political leaders, organizing community forums, and facilitating letter-writing campaigns on important children's topics. The Taft, Calif., chapter last year started a monthly awareness forum focusing on racism and has developed a mentoring program to address several issues, including racism, after-school care, and teen pregnancy. Chapter leaders are planning a children's theater to explore these and other issues through drama.

Chapters may seek to address different needs depending on what's happening in their own communities. But one characteristic all chapters share is their commitment to ongoing activities to improve the lives of children.

"The people involved in our chapter in Minnesota are just a group of individuals who are committed to children," says Fitzpatrick. "Most people have a religious or moral reason for being involved. We are doing Stand For Children because we believe in it and because we enjoy collaborating."

For more information about Stand For Quality Child Care Day, to learn how you can organize an event on or around June 1, or to order the Stand For Children Organizer's Kit, contact: Stand For Children, 1834 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009; call 1-800-663-4032; fax 202-234-0217; e-mail tellstand@stand.org; or visit www.stand.org on the Web. *See page 8 for products for sale.*

Communities focus on child care

Millions of families who are working hard to make ends meet do not have access to good-quality, affordable child care and after-school activities for their children. As a consequence, far too many preschoolers and school-age children are left in unstimulating and in some cases unsafe environments each day.

This spring, Stand For Children Chapters and others who care about children will Stand For Quality Child Care to heighten awareness of this problem and to urge more people to get involved in ongoing efforts to improve children's lives.

"All parents should be able to work without worrying about the safety and quality of the care their children receive," says CDF President Marian Wright Edelman. "Yet study after study shows that child care is often not available, it's not affordable and, in many places, what is available is not safe.

"The Australians have a short colloquial phrase, 'no worries.' That ought to be the way U.S. parents feel about their child care arrangements."

How can your community take a Stand For Quality Child Care? Opportunities are limitless. Here are just a few types of possible activities.

Hold a march or rally. Help unite your community in support of quality, affordable child care by organizing a "Walk a Mile for a Child" march through town, a Stand For Quality Child Care rally downtown, or a community-wide family picnic in a park. Such gatherings provide an excellent opportunity to raise public awareness, network, attract new supporters, and highlight outstanding local programs for children.

Educate and encourage community leaders. Plan a local candidates' forum focusing on child care and after-school programs. Invite local elected officials and community leaders to tour a child care center through CDF's Child Watch Visitation Program. Or arrange for local school-age children to meet with officials and policy makers to talk about their after-school needs.

"Stand For Children Day can be a wake up call for public officials and policy makers," says Stand For Children Executive Director Jonah Edelman.

Meet children's needs directly. Talk with members of your community about concrete ways that they can make a difference for children. Encourage your schools, community centers, and youth-serving agencies to stay open during after-school hours. Help your congregation initiate after-school or summer activities for children. Convince area businesses to donate funds to a local child care program or summer camp scholarship fund.

Honor caregivers in your community. Recognize parents, teachers, caregivers, and others by holding an appreciation celebration in conjunction with Stand For Children Day. Start a peer support group for parents or child care providers. Volunteer to paint or renovate a local child care center.

For more information about child care and after-school programs, see the March 1997 and November 1996 issues of CDF Reports.

Taking an on-line Stand For Children

Last year, more than 50,000 people took a "Virtual" Stand For Healthy Children on their computers between May 25 and June 10. After learning about children's health needs and the state of health care, they signed an on-line petition that urged lawmakers to make health care available to millions of uninsured children.

This year, thousands of Americans will affect the quality and affordability of child care and after-school activities by taking a "Cyber-Stand" For Children. Taking place on the Internet at www.stand.org for three weeks beginning May 18, Cyber-Stand provides Web site visitors with many interactive opportunities to learn about and act on the crucial issue of child care. Web visitors can:

- E-mail "postcards" with customized messages about families' child care needs directly to policy makers.
- Search for a Stand For Children Day activity in your area.
- Explore a "watch them grow" timeline that traces the growth and developmental needs of a child from infancy to adulthood.
- Learn how to find quality child care and read about programs that provide model care.
- Read reflections by celebrities on child care and child rearing.
- Play interactive puzzles and trivia games (for children as well as adults).

USA Today Online, *The Los Angeles Times*, and The CyberMom Dot Com have recognized the Stand For Children Web site for its content and timeliness.

For more information about Cyber-Stand, contact Stand For Children's Internet Outreach Director Ruth Fellingham, 1-800-663-4032, ext. 114; or e-mail ruth@stand.org.

Stand For Children in 1998 with buttons, T-shirts, and more

Official "I Stand For Children" button

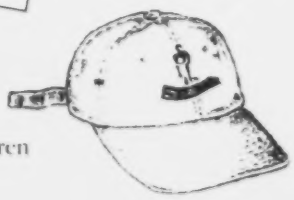
This heart-shaped button gets your message across! $1

Stand For Children T-shirt

Show you Stand For Children, with this 100% cotton shirt featuring the bright purple and green logo. Adult S, XL, and XXL only. $11

Stand For Children cap

In white with the bright Stand For Children logo. Adjustable. $8



Stand For Children picture book

Celebrate the joy, energy, and rich diversity of our nation's children with this new book from Hyperion Press. This picture book illustrates Marian Wright Edelman's 1996 Stand For Children Day speech in Washington, D.C., through a series of colorful, multi-layered quilts designed by master quilter Adrienne Yorinks. $15.95.

"Quilt" poster takes a Stand For Children

A photograph of one of Adrienne Yorinks' breathtaking works captures the whimsy of childhood and the spirit of CDF and the children's movement. The poster reads "Leave No Child Behind." $16.

CDF Fulfillment ordering information

You may order CDF publications and products by phone, fax, or regular mail. In addition to the stated price, include $2 for shipping and handling of the first item ordered and $1 for each additional item. Sales tax applies only to purchases shipped within the District of Columbia (5.75 percent).

CDF asks that all orders less than $25 be prepaid. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Discounts are available for bulk purchases, and buyers should contact the Director of Fulfillment for availability of quantity discounts. CDF has a no-return policy. Buyers should allow four to six weeks for delivery.

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Short Takes

Memorial flags raise awareness of violence against children

Memorial flags were flown at half-staff in Sacramento, Calif., and other state capitols this April as part of a public education campaign launched during Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Coordinated by the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), the Children's Memorial Flag Project was developed by Alameda County, Calif., Supervisor Gail Steele, who concluded that people were becoming numb to news reports about children's violent deaths.

The flag is a symbol that allows communities to acknowledge the loss of children who have died violently. It also serves as a visible pledge to end violence against children.

"Nothing is more important today than an all-out effort to curb violence against children," says CWLA Executive Director David Liederman. "It is shameful that a country as prosperous as ours can tolerate the intentional, violent death of thousands of children and teens each year."

Although the initial phase of the project has been at the state level, CWLA will expand the campaign later this year by encouraging towns and cities across the country to fly flags at half-staff whenever a local child dies by violent means.

For information about starting a Children's Memorial Flag Project in your community, call CWLA program manager Katherine Wingfield, 202-942-0298, or e-mail kwingfield@cwla.org. To order a flag, call CWLA Publications, 202-638-2952.

Helping parents understand the TV rating system

Several resources are now available to help parents make better choices about what their children watch on television. Developed by the cable television industry and nine child advocacy organizations, including CDF, *Tools to Use to Help You Choose: A Family Guide to the TV Ratings System* is designed to inform families about the TV rating system established last fall.

The free tool kit explains TV ratings categories and content labels through a nine-minute video featuring Captain Kangaroo, a print brochure, and a sticker that can be affixed to your television's remote control device.

To order a Tools to Use to Help You Choose *video, brochure, or TV remote control sticker, call your local cable company or write to the National Cable Television Association, Public Affairs Department, 1724 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.*

Photo © Nicole Burkart

Helping congregations work with children and youth

Faith-based communities can play a significant role in addressing children's needs. *Building Assets in Congregations: A Practical Guide for Helping Youth Grow Up Healthy* provides useful strategies to enhance the efforts of congregations working with children and youth.

The publication grew out of the Uniting Congregations for Youth Development initiative, a project developed to help religious youth workers and congregations connect with youth and families both within the congregation and beyond.

To order Building Assets in Congregations, *$18.95 per copy, call the Search Institute, 1-800-888-7828, or visit www.search-institute.org on the Web. Advocates can also learn more about this exciting approach to youth work by attending CDF's fourth annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry, July 20-24, Clinton, Tenn. Call 202-662-3589 for registration information.*

Improving the media's coverage of gun issues

One way that advocates can play a part in reducing gun violence is by encouraging the media to report responsibly on gun issues. Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), a Washington, D.C.-based organization of health professionals, has compiled a tool kit to help activists work with the media.

Right on Target: Responsible Reporting on Gun Issues provides sample letters to the editor and opinion-editorial pieces, background information on the Second Amendment, general information on gun violence, and more.

To order Right on Target, *call PSR, 202-898-0150, or visit www.psr.org on the Web. For recent state-by-state data on child gun deaths, see the August 1997 issue of* CDF Reports, *available from CDF Fulfillment. See page 8 for ordering information.*

CDF at Work

CDF conference unites advocates for 25th anniversary celebration

More than 2,800 community advocates, parents, concerned citizens, young leaders, policy makers, and professionals from across the country gained new skills, networked, and celebrated CDF's silver anniversary during the Annual National Conference held March 25-28 in Los Angeles.

Photo © Rick Reinhard

Maya Angelou (left) and Marian Wright Edelman present Quincy Jones with an achievement award honoring his work on behalf of children.

Five outstanding Los Angeles area high school students received scholarships at the **Eighth Annual Beat the Odds Awards Celebration**, where they were honored for achieving academic success and maintaining a commitment to community service despite facing obstacles, such as poverty, abuse and neglect, and health problems while growing up.

Awards went to **Michael Dallatorre**, Jordan High School; **Alejandro Juarez**, Bell High School; **Margarita Peralta**, San Fernando High School; **Saira Soto**, Garfield High School; and **Erin Tucker**, Phineas Banning High School.

Author **Maya Angelou** hosted the event, joined by actors **Henry Winkler**, **James McDaniel**, and **Victoria Rowell**, entertainment industry executives **Oz** and **Lynn Scott,** and local television reporter **Kelly Mack**. The evening featured rousing performances by **Kurt Carr and the Kurt Carr Singers**, the **Cathedral Choir of West Angeles Church of God in Christ**, and a special tribute to musician **Quincy Jones**. The benefit raised more than $300,000, which will be matched by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

CDF President **Marian Wright Edelman** praised the honorees for their perseverance, strength, and determination, and gave a special thanks to the adults and mentors who play such important roles in their lives. "No one has a right to give up on any child," Edelman said.

Community building was the focus of the conference's opening plenary session, which featured **Angela Glover Blackwell** of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York City; **Geoffrey Canada** of the Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families, New York City; **Geoffrey Cowan**, dean of the Annenberg School for Communications of the University of Southern California; the **Rev. Ray Hammond** of the Ten Point Coalition, Cambridge, Mass.; **Dorothy Meehan** of the Sierra Health Foundation, Sacramento, Calif.; and **Mildred Thompson** of the Community Health Services Administration, Oakland, Calif.

In addition, a panel of well-known authors explored the importance of race and culture on growing up in America. Novelist **Susan Shreve** moderated a lively discussion, which featured **Tina McElroy Ansa**, **Victor Martinez**, **Ishmael Reed**, **Nina Revoyr**, and **Susan Straight**. The presentations were so compelling that every single copy of their novels sold out at the conference.

CDF also hosted a President's Initiative on Race Community Forum. Moderated by actress **Anna Deavere Smith**—who was joined by **Dr. John Hope Franklin**, chairman of the president's advisory panel—the forum featured a candid discussion by young people from southern California on stereotyping, perceptions of race, diversity, and poverty.

Conference participants also had an opportunity to attend training sessions and workshops devoted to topics such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), S.10, and CDF's Campaign for Child Care NOW! In her closing address, Edelman urged advocates to continue working in their communities throughout the year to ensure that families have access to high-quality, affordable child care and after-school activities.

Save the date!

CDF's 1999 Annual National Conference will be held April 28-May 1 in Houston.

Missed the conference? Get it on tape

Audiocassette tapes for all conference workshops and plenary sessions may be purchased from Las Vegas Audio-Taping. Call 1-800-566-5575 or e-mail lasvegasat@aol.com.

Videotapes of the Beat the Odds Celebration and Benefit are available from CDF Fulfillment for $20 each. See page 8 for ordering information.

New CDF report drives home costs of poverty

Children who live in poverty are at greater risk of stunted growth, anemia, repeated years of schooling, lower test scores, less education, and lower earnings during their adult years. The effects of poverty on the nation are startling as well.

New data released in *Poverty Matters*

(See page 11)

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CDF at Work

(Continued from page 10)

The Cost of Child Poverty in America document that for every year 14.5 million U.S. children continue to live in poverty, society will lose $130 billion in future economic output. The cost projections in *Poverty Matters* are updates of data from the 1994 book, *Wasting America's Future: The Children's Defense Fund Report on the Costs of Child Poverty.*

To order Poverty Matters, *available for $7.50, or* Wasting America's Future, *available for $18, contact CDF Fulfillment (see page 8 for ordering information).*

Tool kit available to help advocates shape children's health insurance programs

Advocates can play a tremendous role in turning the dream of children's health coverage into a reality in every state. *An Advocate's Tool Kit for the State Children's Health Insurance Program* provides a variety of resources to help individuals and organizations work with local lawmakers to implement the landmark $48 billion State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), enacted last August.

The tool kit contains background information on the federal law and options available to states, fact sheets with key federal and state statistics, additional resources, and state contacts.

To order An Advocate's Tool Kit for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, *available for $4.95, contact CDF Fulfillment (see page 8 for ordering information).*

Children in the States provides latest data

Advocates and others interested in how children and youth are faring will want to consult *Children in the States 1998.* This new report contains state-by-state tables with data on children's status and participation in a variety of federal programs.

To order Children in the States 1998, *available for $4.95, contact CDF Fulfillment (see page 8 for ordering information).*

Report examines out-of-home placement in Minnesota

Minnesota's child welfare system fails to adequately support families and protect children, according to a new report released by **CDF-Minnesota**. *A Look at Minnesota Children in Out-of-Home Placements* examines data relating to the more than 17,500 children in the state who were in out-of-home care in 1996.

To order a free copy, call the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, 612-870-3670.

CDF welcomes new staff member

Laura Hessburg has joined CDF as Senior Intergovernmental Associate. In this position, Hessburg will be working with state, county, and local policy makers and building ties to community organizations. Most recently she was a legislative assistant in the office of Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa).

Visit CDF's Parent Resource Network on the Web at www.childrensdefense.org/prn.html

S.10 campaign takes action

CDF's 1998 conference included a postcard campaign to further assist local advocates in mobilizing their communities to fight against passage of S.10. Every person who registered for conference received postcards to send to President Clinton, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), and Senate Minority Leader Thomas Daschle (D-S.D.) urging them to stop the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Act because it will hurt children without effectively reducing juvenile crime.

In addition to the postcard campaign, several thousand signatures have been collected in opposition to S.10 during an ongoing petition drive. The Rev. Dr. Charles Adams, senior pastor of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit, collected more than 1,000 signatures from members of his church and community for a petition opposing putting children in adult jails. Child advocates have been diligently calling and writing President Clinton, their senators, and the Senate majority and minority party leaders, as well as writing letters to the editor in publications nationwide. Recent editorials in *The Los Angeles Times* and *USA Today* have seriously questioned the approach taken by S.10. For more information or to order red "Stop S.10" stickers, contact Holly Jackson at 202-662-3664.

STAND UP FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE

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Join advocates around the country and become an effective voice in Congress for children. Call your U.S. senators toll free. Dial 1-888-38 STAND UP from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time between May 11 and June 12. Tell your senators to stand up for quality, affordable child care and support a $20 billion increase in guaranteed funds to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to help states meet the needs of working families and improve the quality of child care and after-school programs.

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CDF, new studies look at status of former welfare recipients
(Continued from page 4)

Lack of child care is a major barrier to work

New York City also lacks child care for 61 percent of the children whose mothers are supposed to participate in workfare this year, according to a recent study by a city agency reported in *The New York Times* (April 14, 1998). The city needs 29,000 more child care slots to move welfare mothers into work, but the governor only plans to finance 6,000 new slots statewide, according to the newspaper's report.

An audit by New York's state comptroller found the state will need child care for 61,000 children by the year 2001, but only 27,500 slots are budgeted, according to the *New York Daily News* (Dec. 19, 1997). The need for care doubled in the past 10 years, leaving 20,000 children on waiting lists for child care.

In Chicago, welfare recipients most frequently cited a lack of child care (25.6 percent) and transportation (20.9 percent) as the major reasons for not being able to keep a job, according to a survey by the Mayor's Office of Employment and Training reported in the *Chicago Tribune* (Dec. 12, 1997). A local study in California last year also found child care, transportation, and a lack of skills as the top three challenges, according to the *Ventura County Star* (Feb. 3, 1998).

Child care is expected to be on the front burner of Congress by late spring. Advocates have an unprecedented opportunity to press the case for providing working parents with quality, affordable child care. (See related story, page 5).

Transportation solutions are on the horizon

Meanwhile, several communities and Congress are attempting to address the lack of transportation for low-income workers. Only 6 percent of welfare recipients have cars, and public transportation routes often do not go to suburbs where most job growth is occurring. Legislation that is part of a huge federal transportation bill would provide $50 million a year for five years. (It seemed assured of passage as this issue went to press.)

(See page 13)

Welfare caseloads plummet

	Total AFDC/TANF recipients			% change
	Jan. '93	Aug. '96	Sept. '97	('96-'97)
Alabama	141,746	100,510	67,839	-32
Alaska	34,951	35,540	32,776	-8
Arizona	194,119	169,440	138,846	-18
Arkansas	73,982	56,230	42,834	-24
California	2,415,121	2,578,450	2,225,893	-14
Colorado	123,308	95,790	59,065	-38
Connecticut	160,102	159,060	151,631	-5
Delaware	27,652	23,650	20,550	-13
District of Columbia	65,800	69,290	61,602	-11
Florida	701,842	533,800	375,819	-30
Georgia	402,228	329,160	237,191	-28
Hawaii	54,511	66,480	75,030	+13
Idaho	21,116	21,800	4,945	-77
Illinois	685,508	640,870	556,426	-13
Indiana	209,882	141,850	106,710	-25
Iowa	100,943	85,940	73,816	-14
Kansas	87,525	63,780	45,603	-28
Kentucky	227,879	170,890	145,713	-15
Louisiana	263,338	228,120	127,752	-44
Maine	67,836	53,790	44,213	-18
Maryland	221,338	194,130	145,435	-25
Massachusetts	332,044	219,580	194,401	-11
Michigan	686,356	501,440	415,487	-17
Minnesota	191,526	169,740	145,220	-14
Mississippi	174,093	122,750	82,426	-33
Missouri	259,039	222,820	177,695	-20
Montana	34,848	28,240	23,106	-18
Nebraska	48,055	38,510	38,111	-1
Nevada	34,943	33,920	28,157	-17
New Hampshire	28,972	22,940	16,553	-28
New Jersey	349,902	275,700	247,200	-10
New Mexico	94,836	99,660	56,520	-43
New York	1,179,522	1,143,960	973,123	-15
North Carolina	331,633	266,470	218,863	-18
North Dakota	18,774	13,130	9,962	-24
Ohio	720,476	549,310	418,830	-24
Oklahoma	146,454	96,010	72,393	-25
Oregon	117,656	78,420	52,364	-33
Pennsylvania	604,701	530,520	410,363	-23
Rhode Island	61,116	56,460	54,624	-3
South Carolina	151,026	113,430	75,624	-33
South Dakota	20,254	15,840	11,570	-27
Tennessee	320,709	238,890	157,608	-34
Texas	785,271	647,790	464,069	-28
Utah	53,172	39,060	30,996	-21
Vermont	28,961	24,270	21,817	-10
Virginia	194,212	152,680	114,450	-25
Washington	286,258	268,930	236,763	-12
West Virginia	119,916	89,039	74,093	-17
Wisconsin	241,098	148,890	88,575	-40
Wyoming	18,271	11,400	3,824	-76
Guam	5,087	8,314	7,894	-5
Puerto Rico	191,261	151,023	138,045	-9
Virgin Islands	3,763	4,898	4,318	-12

Note: As of July 1, 1997, all states had changed their reporting systems from AFDC to TANF.
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

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News from the Black Community Crusade for Children

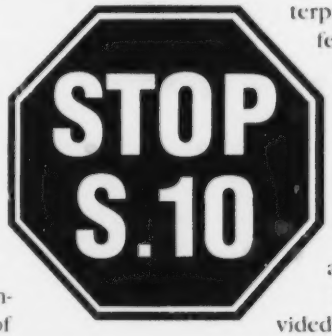
Juvenile court judges sponsor S.10 workshop

More than 75 attendees learned about pending juvenile justice legislation and juvenile crime prevention at a workshop hosted by the BCCC's Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Leadership Council (JLC) during CDF's Annual National Conference in Los Angeles.

Panelists included Judge Phrasel Shelton (San Mateo County, Calif.), Judge Carolyn H. Williams (Kalamazoo, Mich.), James Bell, staff attorney for the Youth Law Center in San Francisco, Roosevelt Dorn, mayor of Inglewood, Calif., and former juvenile court judge, as well as Maurice Moore of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

With JLC co-chairs Arthur Burnett Sr. and Veronica Morgan-Price moderating, participants discussed S.10 and learned firsthand from judges what is really happening in the nation's juvenile courts.

S.10, if enacted, would put children in adult jails and prisons. It fails to invest significantly in crime prevention and does not deal seriously with children's access to guns.



JLC co-chairs address S.10

In a March 12 letter to the U.S. Senate, JLC co-chairs expressed concern about provisions of S.10. The judges specifically addressed the portion of the legislation that would open juvenile records to court personnel, law enforcement, the FBI, schools, and colleges. Recognizing the importance for judges and, in some cases, for law enforcement officials to have access to records, the co-chairs expressed concern about records being readily available to schools and colleges without judicial review. The judges contend that this aspect of S.10 is counterproductive and to "make felony arrest and conviction records available for juveniles who have committed nonviolent or nonserious crimes will threaten future opportunities . . . for children who are only arrested, and never found guilty."

The JLC co-chairs provided senators with legislative alternatives, which include investing in prevention and early intervention instead of more jails and prisons, sharing juvenile records of only youth convicted of violent felony offenses on a "case by case" basis, and letting judges decide if children should be transferred to adult court. The judges also recommended that children should continue to be kept out of adult jails and prisons, as 1974 law provides, for their safety and rehabilitation.

CDF, new studies look at status of former welfare recipients

(Continued from page 12)

The new funds will allow more communities crucial resources to try or expand approaches that are working. A successful program in Chicago, for example, that provides transportation for West Side city residents to suburban jobs has generated 600 job placements in two years. However, 91,000 Cook County families on welfare will need transportation to and from work by the year 2002.

Other smaller scale programs are underway nationwide. In Steuben County, N.Y., residents donate used cars and vocational education students and welfare recipients repair them. In Ventura County, Calif., a pilot program guarantees car loans to welfare recipients and a car-sharing club provides new cars maintained by student mechanics. A Michigan program provides people seeking jobs with bus tickets, pays drivers 12 cents a mile to give them rides, or can pay for up to $500 in car repairs.

Community monitoring emphasizes human face

Local advocates are succeeding in helping policy makers understand how hard it is for families struggling to get off welfare. Advocates are using approaches that drive home the real-life, daily dilemmas of the working poor.

In Kansas, for example, a local community monitoring project CDF is involved with contacted families to document their personal stories about how hard it is to make ends meet. Advocates combined those stories with hard data about how the state's tax structure required working families below the poverty line to pay taxes. Their efforts meant that, as this issue went to press, Kansas was poised to join the nine other states that have passed earned income tax credits (EITCs), which reduce the taxes poor families owe and, in states where it is "refundable," put money in their pockets.

"The EITC helps people *keep* jobs instead of just *get* jobs," said Cheryl Amey, director of CDF's community monitoring project. "For people holding onto jobs by their fingernails, when the family car breaks down, if the cash isn't there to repair it, that's the end of employment, too."

In Washington state, a welfare reform coalition CDF is in contact with conducted a similar survey of present and former welfare recipients. By writing out what their income was and what their expenses were, recipients showed how difficult it was to cover basic needs like child care. Advocates put that information on posters that looked like huge personal checks and then delivered them to legislators as "reality checks."

"That's what we love to see, people using information in the context of advocating for change," said Amey.

One step for children

Tell your senators to stand up for quality, affordable child care

(see page 11)

CDF Reports

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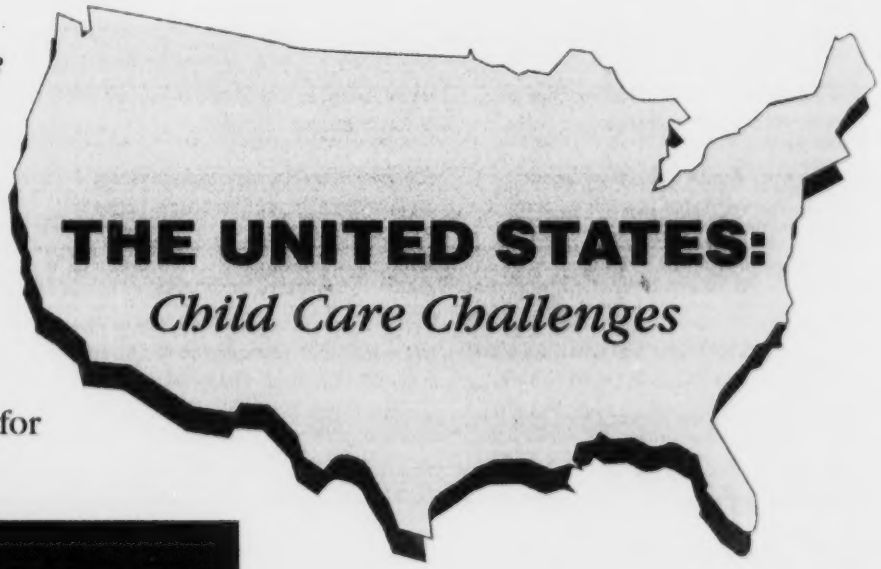
CDF's new *Child Care Challenges* provides the latest data on annual child care costs, as well as key affordability, quality, and supply problems in every state.

A must-have resource for child advocates!



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See page 8 for ordering information.

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CDF Reports

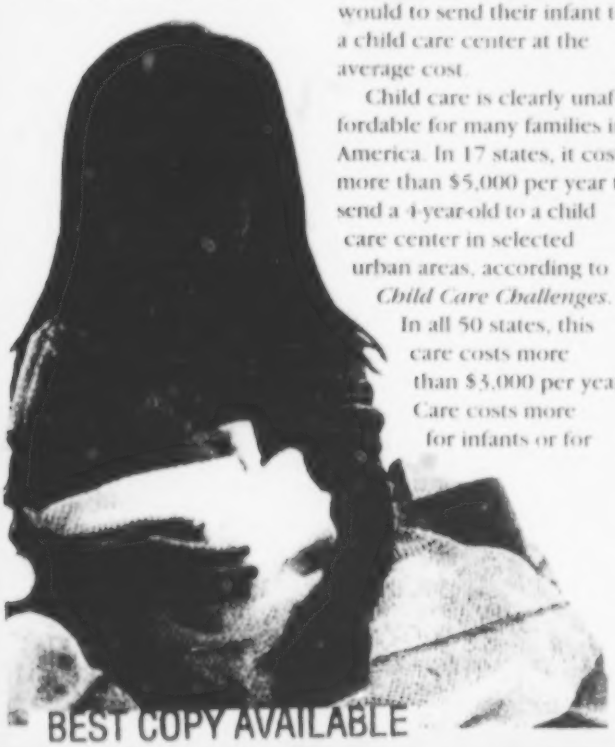
Marian Wright Edelman,
President

June 1998
Volume 19, Number 6

New report: Families struggle to afford child care in all 50 states

John and Sally Smith have a 4-year-old and a baby. Both parents work but are worried about affording tuition—not for the costs of college later, but for child care now. Data in CDF's new *Child Care Challenges* show that in 49 states, the average cost of child care for a 4-year-old in a selected urban area is higher than the average cost of tuition to a public college. Even in Vermont, which has the most expensive public college tuition in the country (more than $6,500 a year), the Smiths still pay less for college than they would to send their infant to a child care center at the average cost.

Child care is clearly unaffordable for many families in America. In 17 states, it costs more than $5,000 per year to send a 4-year-old to a child care center in selected urban areas, according to *Child Care Challenges*. In all 50 states, this care costs more than $3,000 per year. Care costs more for infants or for families who have more than one child. Families have a hard time escaping these expenses: In the majority of states, average child care fees in rural areas even run higher than $3,000, as do the fees for family child care homes.



While stressful for most families, these costs present particular challenges for hard-working, low-income families who want to find quality care for their children. Let's say Mr. and Ms. Smith both work full time, making minimum wage to support themselves and their two children, ages 4 and 1. If the Smiths live in Boston, they would have to spend 94 percent of their income to pay for child care at that area's average rate. In Fairfax County, Va., it would take 74 percent, and in Albany County, N.Y., 68 percent. Indeed, if they live in any of the 50 states' urban areas that CDF has examined, they would have to spend more than 30 percent of their income to purchase child care at the average price.

Although every state is different, parents can expect

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New report: Families struggle to afford child care in all 50 states

(Continued from page 1)

numerous obstacles in all 50 states when it comes to finding child care they can afford that will support their child's development, health, and safety. *Child Care Challenges* uses a mixture of national, state, and local data to highlight the difficulties facing families in each state. In late May, CDF released the publication both as individual state reports and as four regional reports, giving every U.S. senator and representative a copy to show them the unmet needs in their home states.

Child Care Challenges documents widespread problems with affordability, availability, and quality in every state. Across the country, there is insufficient child care programming for children under age 5 and those who are school-aged or have special needs. Likewise, there is a great demand for programs that satisfy nontraditional work schedules or meet the needs of families trying to get off welfare. Inadequate licensing protections for children in child care, low salaries, and high turnover rates for staff threaten the quality of care received by children across the nation.

The study's data on the challenges parents face in finding affordable, quality child care are particularly relevant as advocates press Congress to provide mandatory child care funding. *Child Care Challenges* confirms the urgent need for mandating $20 billion over the next five years for child care, as proposed by CDF's Campaign for Child Care NOW!

As this issue of *CDF Reports* went to press, CDF was advocating three funding sources to make this goal possible: tobacco tax revenues, budget surpluses, and cuts to federal corporate welfare programs or military spending. The $20 billion would be earmarked to help parents pay for child care, to improve the quality of care, and to increase after-school activities.

Children run the risk of learning tough lessons if they don't have constructive after-school activities, as portrayed in this pro bono poster by Fallon McElligott for the Campaign for Child Care NOW!

Urban areas where child care is double the cost of college tuition

In the following urban areas, the average cost of sending a 4-year-old to a child care center is more than twice as much as tuition at the state's public universities.

Urban area	In-state college tuition	Child care fee	Tuition cost as percentage of child care center fee
Alameda County, Calif.	$2,731	$6,032	45%
Albuquerque metro area, N.M.	2,016	4,190	48
Anchorage, Alaska	2,552	5,784	44
Atlanta, Ga.	2,244	4,992	45
Boise City/Ada County, Idaho	1,973	4,354	45
Dane County, Wis.	2,747	6,240	44
Honolulu, Hawaii	2,298	6,188	37
Kansas City/Johnson County, Kan.	2,223	5,200	43
Omaha, Neb.	2,269	4,940	46
Seattle, Wash.	2,928	6,136	48
Tucson, Ariz.	2,009	4,188	48
Tulsa, Okla.	1,936	4,056	48
Urban counties, Fla.	1,789	3,844	47
Wake County, N.C.	1,841	5,068	36
Washoe County (Reno), Nev.	1,814	4,420	41

For sources, see the new Child Care Challenges.

States would have the flexibility to determine their own course of action.

"If we can't take care of our children at a time of great economic prosperity, then when can we do it?" asked CDF President Marian Wright Edelman in a May 7 conference call with three key U.S. senators. "Our economy is booming, most states have a budget surplus, and we're talking about tax cuts for non-needy families; we're finding money for highway expansion."

Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), John Kerry (D-Mass.), and Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.) participated in the CDF conference call with Edelman, along with hundreds of child advocates.

Kerry discussed the proposed tobacco bill: "Many aren't making the connection that the fundamental purpose of this bill is to prevent children from smoking." Kerry added that the solution rests in "preschool programs [that] get children to feel good about themselves" and "after-school programs [that] provide them with the ability to say no to tobacco, which is, after all, just another 'just say no' narcotic substance."

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CDF Reports

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A Voice for Children

by CDF President Marian Wright Edelman

Reweaving the rich fabric of community

In May, just two months after we mourned the violent deaths of four children and a pregnant teacher in Jonesboro, Ark., we again despaired when another youth killed his parents and two classmates and wounded 22 others at his Springfield, Ore., high school. We remembered similar suffering in Edinboro, Pa., Paducah, Ky., and Pearl, Miss. We have all asked "Why?" As child advocates, we must now focus on how we can stop the killing of children by children and adults.

As a starting point, we can turn to the violence prevention efforts of the Black Community Crusade for Children. The BCCC aims to reweave the fabric of community to connect children to caring adults: mentors who model and reinforce positive behavior; pastors who lend an ear to a child in trouble; summer employers who teach new skills and reward achievement. The BCCC's Freedom Schools provide havens to help keep over 2,000 children on track and engaged in activities that nurture their minds, bodies, and spirits.

The safety of children and citizens throughout America depends on us.

But there are still far too many children in America who need to be in safe, stable, and stimulating places while their parents work, especially during after-school hours when many children are unsupervised and youth violent crime peaks. Our efforts must include providing all of these children with quality after-school and summer activities.

Because 14 children in America die from gunfire *every day*, we must also address the larger issues of gun violence. It is too easy for children—and those who would harm children—to gain access to guns. Many states recognize this and are taking steps to keep children safe and alive. Fifteen states already have passed Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws, which hold adults criminally responsible when children use an improperly stored gun.

In the wake of Jonesboro, Sens. John Chafee (R-R.I.), Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), and Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) have introduced much-needed *federal* CAP legislation, the Child Firearm Access Prevention Act (S.1917). Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) are introducing a comprehensive gun violence prevention bill to keep children and communities safe from guns. These bills are a reasonable beginning and I urge all child advocates to strongly support them.

As we search for ways to prevent another tragedy, we must not scapegoat children for the failures of adults. Unfortunately, legislation pending in Congress (including S.10 and H.R.3) would do just that, forcing many children into adult jails and prisons. There, youths face increased risk of rape and assault, with no hope of treatment or education.

Instead of locking up children with adults, we need to look to programs such as Children's Zones, developed in Harlem by the Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families, and the broad-based collaborative among police, preachers, and community members in the Boston area. These efforts have had tremendous success in reducing youth violence and child gun deaths. We must also champion the work of juvenile judges—including the dozens of members of the BCCC's Judges' Leadership Council—who hold all children accountable while preserving the core value that no child is irredeemable.

We may never fully understand the tragedies of Springfield and Jonesboro. But this much we do know: We must raise our voices to demand national commitments to after-school care, common-sense gun control laws, and tough but smart juvenile courts. The safety of children and citizens throughout America depends on us.

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Short Takes

New studies stress need for action on child care

Two comprehensive reports released this spring offer insight into serious problems undermining the quality of child care in America.

Worthy Work, Unlivable Wages: The National Child Care Staffing Study, 1988-1997 warns that the quality of U.S. child care centers "teeters on the brink of disaster." It cites evidence of low wages, high levels of job turnover, difficulties in finding qualified teaching staff, inconsistent care, and the potential for unsafe conditions for children. Published by the Center for the Child Care Workforce as a follow-up to *National Child Care Staffing Study* of 1988, *Worthy Work, Unlivable Wages* tracks U.S. child care data and trends over nine years. Researchers based their findings on surveys of 158 child care centers in the metropolitan areas of Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, Phoenix, and Seattle.

The study documents that job conditions in the child care profession, which have a major impact on the quality of care children receive, have not improved since 1988. Researchers say the solution lies in a well-targeted investment of public funding to ease the child care burdens faced by parents and caregivers.

Photo © Bob Daemmrich

Worthy Work, Unlivable Wages, $19.95, is available from the Center for the Child Care Workforce, 733 15th Street NW, Suite 1037, Washington, DC 20005; 1-800-U-R-WORTHY or 202-737-7700.

The 1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book, the Annie E. Casey Foundation's report on the well-being of children in the United States, highlights the growing need for affordable, quality child care and after-school programs for millions of children.

The ninth annual *KIDS COUNT* report focuses particularly on the child care needs of low-income working families and on the increased challenges presented by the growing numbers of families trying to leave welfare. Many of these parents have jobs with nontraditional hours. The report finds dangerously few options for parents who don't work traditional 9-to-5, Monday-to-Friday shifts, when child care is most often available. Such parents make up more than one-quarter of all working poor families.

The study cites several pressing needs, including expanding efforts to help families afford care (for example, by increasing funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant), ensuring better compensation and training for child care professionals, and providing more information to help parents learn about their child care options.

The 1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book *is available free from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 701 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202; 410-223-2890; or visit www.aecf.org/kc1998/toc.htm on the Web.*

Improving conditions for jailed youths

Twenty-five years ago, CDF's *Children in Adult Jails* revealed the horrible conditions facing children in 449 jails and prisons nationwide. Today, with more than 100,000 children in juvenile detention centers and more than 10,000 in adult jails, far too many facilities remain severely overcrowded, lack adequate services such as health care and education, and threaten the safety and well-being of young people.

Child advocates, parents, and program administrators can help improve these conditions in a number of ways, according to *Beyond the Walls: Improving Conditions of Confinement for Youth in Custody*. This new publication from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) outlines six methods for improving oversight, monitoring, and services for detained and committed youths without resorting to litigation.

To order Beyond the Walls, *call DOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Clearinghouse, 1-800-638-8736; fax 301-519-5212; or visit www.ncjrs.org/ojjhome.htm on the Web.*

Adults cut from food stamps go hungry

An alarmingly high percentage of adult hospital patients recently cut from the food stamp program are going hungry because they cannot afford food, reports a study published in the April 15, 1998, issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The findings warn of likely tragic consequences should lawmakers further scale back the program.

The 1996 welfare law eliminated food stamp assistance for most immigrant children and families as well as for able-bodied adults ages 18-50. The law also reduced benefits for all other food stamp households. Two-thirds of the spending cuts affect families with children.

According to the study conducted in a Minneapolis-area county, 12 percent of the 737 patients interviewed reported not having enough food, 13 percent reported not eating for an entire day, and 14 percent reported being hungry but not eating because they could not afford food.

Of those interviewed, 40 percent had received food stamps the previous year. Of these former food stamp recipients, 50 percent had their food stamps reduced or eliminated.

To order copies, $11 each, contact Subscriber Services Center, PO Box 10945, Chicago, IL 60610; 312-670-7827; fax, 312-464-5831.

Children enroll in new state health insurance programs

Terry and Debbie Dingus struggled for years to pay hundreds of dollars annually in health care costs for their two oldest children, who lacked health insurance. Fortunately, James Richard (J.R.), 11, and Terry Christopher (T.C.), 9, avoided a medical emergency or serious illness that could have caused the Ohio family to go into debt or lose their home. But the expense of the boys' regular medical care, along with the uncertainty of raising two children without health coverage, was still a terrible burden.

Until this spring, however, the Dingus family had no choice. They were unable to afford private insurance, but J.R. and T.C. were ineligible for Medicaid, the health program covering their 5-year-old brother and 2-year-old sister. That's because the Dingus family's income, which falls between 100 percent and 133 percent of poverty, was above the eligibility cutoff for the older children. (Before January, Ohio allowed children under age 6 in families with incomes up to 133 percent of the poverty level to receive Medicaid.)

But now, thanks to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)—federal legislation designed to help states cover uninsured children in low-income families—all four Dingus children are enrolled in Medicaid. Because of CHIP, Ohio enacted a single eligibility standard that includes more children and families.

"We had no health coverage for J.R. and T.C. before April," explained Terry Dingus, 51, a former salesman who now volunteers at a food pantry in Columbus despite being disabled. "We paid for everything out of pocket, which was hard because we're living on a fixed income.

"It has really eased my worries a lot to know that we have the insurance—just knowing that if they break an arm at school, we're not going to have to take food out of our budget for the month."

Affordable health care for low-income families

J.R. and T.C. Dingus are just two of 21,000 Ohio children already signed up for health coverage as of March 31 as a result of CHIP, a bipartisan $48 billion initiative enacted by Congress last August. Ohio officials expect to enroll 133,000 children by July 1999. CHIP provides annual grants to help states cover uninsured children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford private health insurance.

Before January, when Ohio expanded Medicaid through CHIP, Ohio children ages 6–14 could receive Medicaid only if their families had incomes at or below 100 percent of the poverty level. This income restriction affected thousands of Ohio children. Ohio has now expanded Medicaid to cover *all* children through age 18 in families with incomes up to 150 percent of poverty. And a state task force is exploring the possibility of expanding the program to reach families earning up to 200 percent of poverty ($27,300 for a family of three).

Like Ohio, most states are using CHIP to help large numbers of uninsured children and are providing families with Medicaid's comprehensive and child-friendly benefits package, according to CDF's midterm report on the new health insurance program. *CHIP Check-Up: A Healthy Start for Children* analyzes data gathered through April 30, documenting the steps that states have taken thus far to implement the program.

According to the study, most states don't require parents with low incomes to pay insurance premiums or copayments, which means they can obtain care for their children without cost creating a barrier.

Innovative approaches to difficult problems

Many states have generous eligibility standards—20 are providing coverage for uninsured children in families with income up to 200 percent of the poverty line. Another eight states cover children up to 185 percent of poverty ($25,253 for a family of three). Many states are providing health coverage by expanding Medicaid or by proposing "Medicaid look-alike" programs, which provide comprehensive benefits.

Some states are capitalizing on CHIP's flexibility by developing innovative solutions to long-standing problems, according to CDF's *CHIP Check-Up*. For example, Connecticut is expanding Medicaid to cover more children while creating a program for families with slightly higher incomes. The state is also using a single contractor to reach *all* uninsured children and allows families to mail in applications to the contractor, who assures processing by the appropriate agency.

Utah has proposed that joint CHIP/Medicaid applications be processed first for Medicaid and later for CHIP. This practice ensures that Medicaid-eligible children are enrolled in Medicaid rather than a separate CHIP program, which in some states offers fewer benefits at a higher cost to the family. And Montana is balancing demands for personal responsibility with families' financial constraints by asking parents to pay modest annual enrollment fees of $50 per child.

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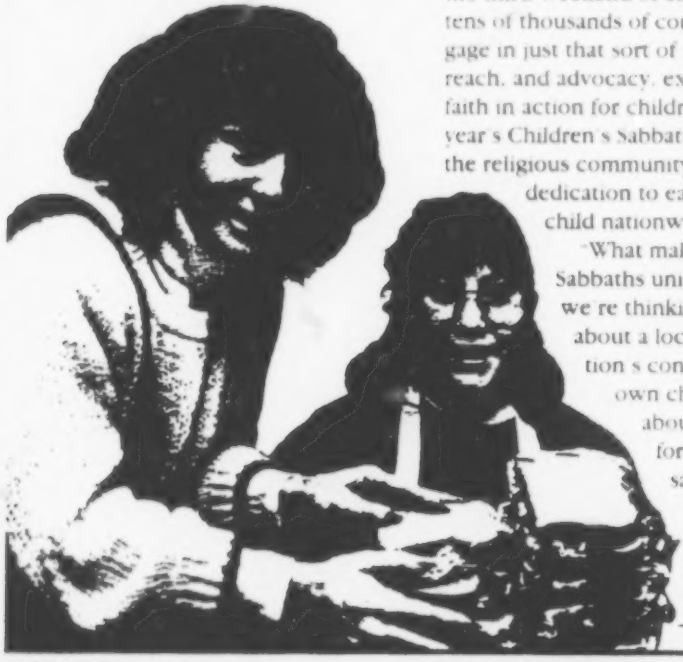
Special Report

Children's Sabbaths

Making and moving mountains for children, through faith and action

One woman discovered what the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths is all about behind a mountain of peanut butter sandwiches. Inspired by her rabbi's powerful preaching on children's needs during a Friday night service, she joined other congregation members afterwards in the synagogue hall to write a letter to her representative in Congress. She then volunteered to help prepare meals for children at a homeless shelter. After making her 20th peanut butter sandwich, the woman turned to her neighbor and said, "Wouldn't it be a miracle if congregations everywhere were doing all of this for children in need? Imagine the difference we could make."

The miracle is that through Children's Sabbaths, congregations *are* making an enormous difference. On the third weekend of each October, tens of thousands of congregations engage in just that sort of worship, outreach, and advocacy, expressing their faith in action for children. During this year's Children's Sabbaths, Oct. 16–18, the religious community will affirm its dedication to each and every child nationwide.



"What makes Children's Sabbaths unique is that we're thinking not just about a local congregation's concern for its own children, but about a concern for all children," said CDF's Children's Sabbaths Coordinator Marie Quinlan.

Launched by CDF in 1992, the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths is an effort to uplift the religious community's commitment to improve children's lives. CDF provides resources and tools, which this year include both a new multifaith manual and a new video.

> **"What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness?"**
> (Micah 6:8)

"We take this weekend in October to call on congregations of all faiths to speak out for justice and to reach out with compassion to improve the lives of children," said CDF Religious Affairs Director Shannon Daley-Harris. "It is a weekend to both celebrate and strengthen what they are already doing on behalf of children."

Raising consciousness on child care

To send the strongest possible message, each observance of Children's Sabbaths encourages faith communities to focus their worship services, education programs, outreach efforts, and advocacy initiatives on a particular issue. This year, Children's Sabbaths will highlight the urgent need for affordable, quality child care and after-school programs.

"We are hoping to raise consciousness, calling people's attention to how they're providing care," said Quinlan. "This is a time to challenge them to be more mindful of the care of each child around them—not just the children in

(See page 6)

Children's Sabbaths

(Continued from page 5)

their own homes, but those in the community-at-large and throughout our nation."

The religious community, as the single largest provider of center-based child care in the country, is already "filling a need," said Daley-Harris. "Congregations have historically and traditionally recognized and respected the nurturing and upbringing of children in mind, body, and spirit. You have to be concerned with all three."

"You should deal towards orphans with equity; and whatever good you do, Allah surely knows it."

(Koran 4:127)

To provide faith communities with planning tips for Children's Sabbaths—including worship resources, lesson plans, activity ideas, follow-up suggestions, and more—CDF has in the past offered its Children's Sabbaths resource booklets in several versions. Each geared its content to a particular faith, such as Protestant, Catholic, or Jewish.

This year, however, CDF has published an edition that contains the programs and activities for each faith community in a single volume: *Gifted and Called to Raise Up Our Children*. The new format provides a greater educational tool, said Quinlan. "Congregations will be able to see how others celebrate and continue their work for children through their religious traditions. The manual will enable people to network better and form more interfaith programs to bring together the communities and coalitions that work for children."

Responding to what children need most

The Children's Sabbaths programs and activities suggested in the manual are not just meant for children or parents, but can involve people of all ages. "Entire congregations need to be mindful of children," said Daley-Harris. "Teachers, mentors, coaches, the elderly, and even peers have so much to give children, so many ways to nurture them and help meet their needs. We like to think that Children's Sabbaths reinforce the connection that the whole church embraces children. It's inter-generational."

Because of this year's focus on improving child care, many of the manual's suggested activities center around creating better after-school and summer programs for children and teens. It includes guidance for various proactive approaches, such as writing letters to lawmakers. Other recommendations are more personal in nature, such as keeping certain prayers in heart and mind.

"Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone?"

(Matthew 7:9)

The manual encourages congregations to develop programs that fit

(See page ")

Ten easy steps to prepare for your Children's Sabbath

Invite people in the community . . .

1. Encourage everyone to invite a friend—especially to bring children and youths.
2. Invite families from child care programs to participate.
3. Invite local government officials to your Children's Sabbath observance and related events.

Be prepared . . .

4. Use your manual to plan and promote your Children's Sabbath.
5. Conduct some simple research about the need for quality and affordable child care and after-school programs and the available resources in your community and state.
6. Ready all those who will be a part of your congregation's Children's Sabbath by assigning appropriate roles in the service and other activities.

Spread the word!

7. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about the need for increased quality and affordable child care and after-school programs in your area and encourage strong local action.
8. Submit short reports on child care issues and ask to have them printed in your congregation's newsletter.
9. Design a community-wide Child Care Day—with other congregations, religious organizations, and child care agencies—to focus attention on existing programs and services and how people can access these services and get involved.
10. Remember CDF is ready to help you!

Children's Sabbaths

(Continued from page 6)

their own community that "reach out and respond to what their children need most," said Quinlan. If members of a congregation are unsure of the best steps to take, Quinlan invites them to contact CDF with their questions and concerns.

Along with the manual, CDF is producing a video geared toward congregations interested in hosting a Children's Sabbath: *Calling Faith Communities to Action for Children*. "The video will inspire communities of faith to join in this particular initiative to enhance service and advocacy for children," said Christa Grim of CDF's Media Division. "From the video, people will learn what Children's Sabbaths are all about and how their congregation can get involved."

"If every congregation did something on Children's Sabbaths and then stopped, they would be missing the point of what Children's Sabbaths is all about. Although every little bit helps, we need people to set aside this weekend to establish or strengthen an ongoing commitment to the children in their communities."

Applying the power of prayer, outreach, and advocacy

The beauty of Children's Sabbaths is that people can take part at any level. For example, the United Church of Christ in Abington, Mass., is using the power of prayer to focus on the children in its congregation. "We have cardboard cutouts of children named after kids in our congregation that we include in that week's bulletin," said Director of Christian Education Debra Moore. "When church members receive their bulletins, they are asked to pray for the well-being of that child for the whole year."

Photo © Oscar Griffin

About 500 people, including the Combined Children's Choir, participated in a 1997 Children's Sabbath sponsored by the Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence, Kan., hopes to use music to spread the message of this year's Children's Sabbaths. In conjunction with other churches in the community, Peace Mennonite is planning a public concert with performers for children. To raise money for a local children's charity, King's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Pendleton, S.C., is repeating its "walk a mile for a child" event. This year, King's Chapel will also work to encourage about 80 other local churches to participate in the observance of Children's Sabbaths.

Temple Beth Am in Seattle, Wash., hopes to build on the advocacy initiative it launched last year when it hosted an educational forum for all adult members of its congregation. A University of Washington professor of pediatrics and a Washington state senator led the event, which focused on how to be an effective advocate and discussed upcoming state legislation affecting children's health and safety. Since then, the social action committee of the synagogue has offered advocacy opportunities for the congregation, including training and participation in a Lobby Day at the state capitol, in which members met with legislators about social service issues, in particular a children's health initiative.

Sustaining action after Children's Sabbaths

Although many see Children's Sabbaths as a weekend to celebrate the young people in their midst as children of God, the actual thrust of Children's Sabbaths is about what happens *after* the observance. "If every congregation did something on Children's Sabbaths and then stopped, they would be missing the point of what Children's Sabbaths is all about," said Daley-Harris. "Although every little bit helps, we need people to set aside

(See page 8)

Make a long-term difference!

Keep these questions in mind when you are planning your Children's Sabbath:

- What are the needs of children in your community and throughout the country?
- What Children's Sabbath activities can your congregation provide to strengthen the local and global impact of your weekend event on children's lives?
- What can you and your congregation do to maintain the momentum of Children's Sabbaths after Oct. 18?

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Children's Sabbaths

(Continued from page 7)

this weekend to establish or strengthen an ongoing commitment to the children in their communities."

By motivating the religious community on all levels, Children's Sabbaths help people recognize that their congregation has a larger mission and a sacred charge from God. The religious community has traditionally recognized its corporate responsibility to take action beyond its own front door. It stands not only as a symbol but also as a tool to reinforce the idea that rearing children is the hardest job there is and that we need others to help.

Photo © Oscar Griffin

A young man plays an African drum at the conclusion of the worship service for the Houston Children's Sabbaths Observance.

"As the center of our communities and spiritual lives, our places of worship can be a critical resource for parents and children," said Quinlan. "Parents have always needed family, friends, and the larger religious community to help out."

CDF initiated the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths not only to recognize the sacredness and giftedness of children, but also to serve as a reminder that how we nurture and rear children isn't just about forming good adults.

It's about fulfilling a continuing faithful relationship central to every religious community. It's about responding to the needs of our children. It's about prayer, education, community service, and advocacy.

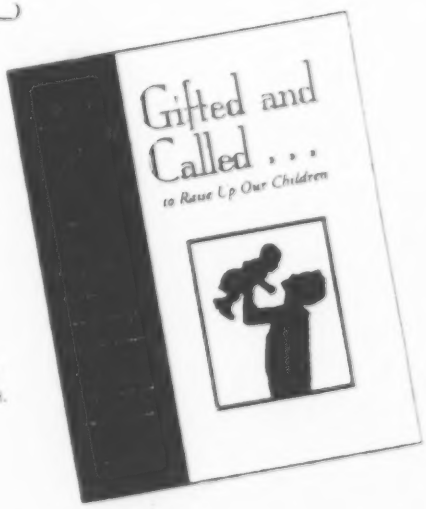
It's about making that extra peanut butter sandwich.

Children's Sabbaths Resource Order Form

Please send the Children's Sabbaths multifaith resource manual(s), *Gifted and Called . . . to Raise Up Our Children* (indicate quantity _____)

Manual Cost:

1–4 manuals	@ $6 each	30–49 manuals	@ $2.50 each
5–9 "	@ $5 each	50–99 "	@ $2 each
10–19 "	@ $4 each	100 + "	@ $1.50 each
20–29 "	@ $3 each		



Please send the Children's Sabbaths video(s), *Calling Faith Communities to Action for Children* (indicate quantity_____)

Video cost: $5.95 each

ORDERING INFORMATION

In addition to the stated price, include $2 for shipping and handling of the first item ordered and $1 for each additional item. For bulk orders of 10 or more, please call 202-662-3643 to determine the price for cost-effective shipping to your location. Orders shipped to Washington, D.C., addresses must include 5.75% sales tax.

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CDF at Work

CDF grows a branch office in New York, tackles new tactics

CDF-New York has adopted a creative approach to give the needs of children and families a strong presence in the state capital. Its new upstate branch in Albany, which opened in early April, is building on an advocacy strategy familiar to **Michael Kink**, who joined CDF as legislative counsel this past spring.

Michael Kink

Every week of the legislative session for the last two-and-a-half years, Kink—with colleagues at Housing Works, Inc.—has brought formerly homeless, HIV-positive New Yorkers to Albany to talk to legislators and executive staff about welfare reform, public health, and AIDS policies. "We've been the only poverty advocacy organization bringing 'real people' to Albany to advocate on their own behalf," said Kink. "I'm enthusiastic about the opportunity to help children and families find the same kind of voice."

Kink established the Albany Advocacy Center of Housing Works, Inc., and he will continue to serve as part-time counsel to that organization while at CDF-New York. Kink also worked in Harlem for five years with the Legal Aid Society fighting homelessness, poverty, and lead-paint poisoning on behalf of children and families. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Brown University and received his law degree from New York University.

The new Albany branch places CDF in a prime position for mobilizing the upstate New York constituency of children's advocates. **Sarah Katz** recently joined the office as its field organizer. She comes to CDF from the political action department of 1199 National Health and Human Services Employees Union, AFL-CIO, SEIU.

The CDF Albany office is at 24" Lark Street, Albany, NY 12210. Phone: 518-449-2830 Fax: 518-449-2846

New faces at CDF

"I'm a worker and I'm ready to do what's needed," said **Cynthia J. Finch**, the new director of the Former Alex Haley Farm. She sees her new position as a great opportunity to do what she likes most: empowering people to be "movers and shakers" and a strong force in their own destiny. In Clinton, Tenn., the Haley Farm serves as CDF's conference and training center for lifting spirits and building leadership skills across all disciplines, races, and generations.

Cynthia J. Finch

Finch comes to CDF with 20 years experience in health care, most recently as the director of operations and program development for TennCorp Community Services. There, she developed and implemented a holistic primary care and social services initiative. She is a former partner-owner in Housecall Healthcare and past vice-president of Provider Services, Tennessee Managed Care Network.

CDF Reports has a new editor: **Sherri Byrand** joined CDF in May to manage the newsletter's day-to-day operations. Byrand most recently wrote a regular feature column for the international journal of *Science*. She has also freelanced for such publications as *The Washington Post* and has 10 years experience working with children and teens in adventure programming.

Sherri Byrand with young climber

Ohio's state of child care—county by county

"We've uncovered both good news and bad news," reports CDF-Ohio's director **Mark Real**. "The good news is that the supply of child care sites [in Ohio] has doubled in the last 14 years, though there has been no population growth. On a more sobering note, we've revealed just how modest the wages are of people who have to purchase child care."

CDF-Ohio's new publication, *Child Care: A County Fact Book*, keys into what child care costs relative to income. The 200-page book covers all of Ohio's 88 counties, offering individual profiles of each with such information as major employers and total numbers of available programs and children enrolled.

CDF-Ohio released the book by presenting a copy to every member of the state legislature and to key child care leaders. The Longaberger Company cosponsored a reception at the Ohio state capitol for the publication's release. In addition, three child care programs set up demonstration classrooms. More than 300 persons attended the event, including **Gov. George**

(See page 10)

Updated data on *Children in the States*

CDF apologizes for an inaccuracy published in its report *Children in the States: 1998 Data*. In the section "Child Care and Early Childhood Education," the column entry for the final item, "Number of 18-month-olds allowed per caregiver," was incorrect for each of the 50 states.

Please visit the CDF Web site "Children in the States: 1998 Data" (www.childrensdefense.org/states/data.html) for the corrected data. You may also order a revised print edition by contacting CDF Fulfillment (see page 10).

(Continued from page 9)

Voinovich, members of CDF's Board of Directors, and CDF President **Marian Wright Edelman**.

Request Child Care: A County Fact Book. *$19.95, from CDF-Ohio, 614-221-2244.*

Minnesota offers tips on fact finding

CDF-Minnesota has newly released *Information Is Power: A Child Advocate's Guide to Fear-Free Fact Finding*. The publication explains how to find information and use it to influence policy makers.

To order copies, $5 each, contact the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, 612-870-3670. The latest version of *Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look—1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book* is also available for $12.

Two short but comprehensive reports explore Minnesota's child welfare system and its inadequacies in protecting children: *A Look at Minnesota Children in Out-Of-Home Placements* (8 pages) and *Funding Issues in Out-of-Home Placement Services for Children* (4 pages).

To order both, available together for $3, call CDF-Minnesota, 612-227-6121.

Bottom line on South's welfare cuts

As of September 1997, the nation had 2.4 million fewer people receiving welfare; nearly 1 million of them lived in the South. A new CDF report, *Race to the Bottom: Plummeting Welfare Caseloads in the South and the Nation*, examines this unprecedented reduction, induced by the 1996 welfare law. Rather than decreasing levels of support to ward off potential applicants from other states, as originally predicted, "states are dropping families, not benefits," says the report. This would be good news if parents were finding and keeping jobs that lift their children out of poverty. Unfortunately, evidence discussed in the 26-page report shows that this is not the case.

Note: The April/May issue of CDF Reports *featured an article related to this subject on page 4. To order* Race to the Bottom, *$1.95, contact CDF Fulfillment (see box at right).*

Silver anniversary of service

Doloris Jordan, the mother of basketball star Michael Jordan, teamed up with Chicago's first lady **Maggie Daley**, businesswoman **Marilyn Miglin**, and public relations consultant **Rick Jasculca** to co-chair an April 27 CDF gala dinner and auction in Chicago.

Commemorating CDF's 25 years of advocacy, service, and leadership, the event featured five-time Academy Award nominee **Glenn Close** as special guest host. Former CDF board chairperson and First Lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** served as keynote speaker. During her address, Mrs. Clinton recalled that when a heckler belittled Sojourner Truth's speech against slavery as no more powerful than the bite of a flea, she promised to keep him scratching. Said Mrs. Clinton, "From its first day, the Children's Defense Fund has kept biting and fighting to put children on our national agenda . . . to make sure that people hear the voices of all children, especially those too often ignored, too often forgotten."

Photo © Todd Rosenberg

More than 300 stood up for children at the CDF anniversary celebration in Chicago, among them (from left to right) CDF President Marian Wright Edelman, Glenn Close, Marilyn Miglin, Deloris Jordan, and Maggie Daley.

25 Years
LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND

CDF Fulfillment ordering information

You may order CDF publications and products by phone, fax, or regular mail. In addition to the stated price, include $2 for shipping and handling of the first item ordered and $1 for each additional item. Sales tax applies only to purchases shipped within the District of Columbia (5.75 percent).

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Necessary

News from the Black Community Crusade for Children

BCCC convenes children, race, and poverty forum in Memphis

To mark the 30th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work in Memphis fighting for better jobs, wages, education, and health care for children and families, the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) held a regional forum there on race and poverty. Participants discussed strategies to end poverty's hold on one in five, or 14.5 million, American children.

Despite a booming regional economy with budget surpluses in 15 Southern states, one in four children in the South is poor. Half of these children live in extreme poverty, with family incomes below half the federal poverty line. "Instead of seeing strong progress in the South, our children are trapped in deep poverty," said CDF President **Marian Wright Edelman**. "I hope our nation will finish Dr. King's quest by giving every child a fair chance in life."

Photo © Lisa Waddell

After speaking at the BCCC Memphis conference, Taylor Branch signed copies of his new book Pillars of Fire, *the follow-up to* Parting the Waters, *which earned him a Pulitzer. Both books chronicle the influence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

Along with Edelman, former U.N. Ambassador **Andrew Young**, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Taylor Branch**, more than 200 policy makers, mayors, youths, and religious and community leaders attended the two-day action and strategy meeting. Held at the National Civil Rights Museum, it was the third in a BCCC series of meetings on children, race, and poverty.

The conference in Memphis ended with a Beat the Odds celebration dinner honoring six local high school students who overcame tremendous obstacles to achieve success. One of the honorees, **Daira Hodges**, 17, qualified to serve as her senior class valedictorian this year at Memphis's East High School—three years after nearly losing her life from being stabbed 22 times by a former boyfriend.

Reporting poverty's high price

The poverty rate for Southern children was as high in 1996 as it was in 1969, at 22.3 percent, according to a new report CDF released at the BCCC meeting in Memphis. *The High Price of Poverty for Children of the South* raises concerns about the nation's failure to reduce historically high child poverty rates in the South. The study presents additional findings about the nature and consequences of Southern child poverty and calls for more compassionate work- and family-based policies to lift children and their families out of poverty.

Although 84 of the nation's 100 poorest counties for children are in the South, *The High Price of Poverty* documents that other U.S. regions are "catching up" to the South's poverty rates; indeed, the poverty rate in the West is now the same as that in the South. This fact drew national media attention to the report.

Studies have shown that poverty has detrimental effects on children's health, development, and educational success. According to *The High Price of Poverty*, the South's child poverty rate, if unabated, could also have a negative impact on the region's booming economy, costing $50 billion in lost lifetime earnings and affecting businesses by reducing the number of highly skilled workers.

To order The High Price of Poverty *($1.95), contact CDF Fulfillment (see page 10). At the Memphis meeting, CDF also released two other reports:* Race to the Bottom *(see page 10) and* CHIP Check-Up: A Healthy Start for America's Children *(see page 4).*

Photo © Lisa Waddell

A catalyst for the Poor People's Campaign and a leader of the Civil Rights Movement, Andrew Young discussed lessons learned from the past in a 30-year retrospective on race and poverty.

Freedom School-*ing*

In late May and early June, more than 200 college-age adults undertook a week of intensive Freedom School training, networking, and spiritual renewal at the Former Alex Haley Farm. The training prepared these servant-leaders to work with children ages 5 to 18 over the summer and during the coming school year at BCCC's Freedom Schools.

This summer, the Freedom Schools are keeping more than 2,300 school-age children safe, nourished, and involved in positive activities at 32 sites. Established as part of the voter registration and community mobilization effort during the legendary Freedom Summer of 1964, Freedom Schools target primarily low-income children and families in communities where program options and positive role models are few to nonexistent.

The June 14 graduation ceremony for this year's staff featured **Unita Blackwell** as guest speaker. One of the Freedom Schools' original founders, Blackwell serves as mayor of Mayersville, Miss., and as a member of the BCCC's Working Committee

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New report: Families struggle to afford child care in all 50 states
(Continued from page 2)

Regardless of the outcome of the tobacco bill, the $20 billion mandatory funding is not only possible, but also necessary. "We have had a national policy of neglect of our children, and it plays out every day with our lack of appropriate day care and after-school programs," said Kerry. "This is a disgrace, as rich as we are and as well as we're doing in this nation."

Helen Blank, director of CDF's Child Care Division, stressed the importance of *mandatory* federal funding for child care and after-school programs. "We are not proposing a big new government program. We are supporting the expansion of the Child Care Development Block Grant, a Bush Administration program that works to promote children's healthy development. These investments are a potent weapon for keeping children from engaging in risky behaviors such as smoking."

"We have had a national policy of neglect of our children, and it plays out every day with our lack of appropriate day care and after-school programs."

Note: CDF grants blanket permission for advocates to use Child Care Challenges. *To order individual state reports ($1.95 each), contact CDF Fulfillment (see page 10). A news release summarizing the reports is also available at www.childrensdefense.org.*

A boost to self-sufficiency

When many parents were too intimidated to go to the local community college for classes to earn their general equivalency diploma (GED), said Head Start program director Marvin Hogan, "We got the college to bring the course to us. Then, once parents get familiar with the college staff, they're eager to go to the campus."

The new approach to adult education is one of several ways the Friends of Children of Mississippi Head Start is helping families out of poverty. To date, its Self-Sufficiency and Empowerment project has "encouraged 61 parents to return to school, promoted the creation of 106 businesses, and assisted in the creation, securing, or upgrading of 170 jobs," according to Hogan.

The Mississippi program is among hundreds of Head Start agencies across the nation that are helping parents find and keep jobs. A new report by CDF explores a wide range of such initiatives. ***Head Start: Helping Families Move From Welfare to Work*** highlights efforts to provide parents with pre-employment training, job placement services, peer mentoring, and assistance in obtaining small business loans.

Since its inception in 1965, Head Start has adapted to meet the changing needs of children in low-income families. Parents are especially open to opportunities that Head Start offers because of its longtime reputation for respecting and empowering the adults who participate in its programs. Thus, Head Start provides an ideal forum to educate parents about the 1996 welfare law and help them meet its requirements.

The new CDF publication surveyed 19 programs to underscore the depth and breadth of Head Start's latest endeavors. It highlights a range of strategies that these and other Head Start programs across the country are using to help their families gain the skills and support they need to become independent of welfare.

Head Start programs have successfully collaborated with employment agencies, community groups, and state agencies. For example, Hamilton County Educational Service Center Head Start in Cincinnati has teamed up with other organizations to create three family resource centers that contain a variety of much-needed social services under one roof. In San Diego, Head Start is working with the local community college district so parents can enroll in evening vocational and academic courses while their children participate in a Head Start program on the same campus. Said Director Barbara Fielding, "Our goal in San Diego is to provide seamless and wraparound services based on the needs, resources, and aspirations of the family."

To order Head Start: Helping Families Move From Welfare to Work, *$3.95, contact CDF Fulfillment (see page 10).*

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May 18, 1998

Dear Senator:

As doctors, public health officials, business leaders, and child development experts, we are on the front lines—working to help children grow and develop into productive citizens. We know all too well the dangers of tobacco and have seen all too frequently its tight grip on the futures of our young people. Congress has a chance to turn this tide and to reduce teen smoking in America. Scientific studies and real world experience clearly demonstrate that early childhood development and after-school programs are among the most powerful anti-smoking weapons available.

Research shows that brain development in the first three years of life is important for laying the foundation for adequate development—which results in self-confidence, smart decision-making, and the ability to later resist destructive habits such as smoking. If we want our children to grow up healthy and tobacco free, we must ensure that they receive the stimulation and nurturing they need *early*. If we wait until adolescence to help them develop the will and skills to say no to smoking—we will have done too little and we may have been too late.

After-school programs make a world of difference. We know that the 5 million children left home alone after school are more vulnerable to negative peer pressure from the tobacco industry. After-school programs help keep young people off the streets and engaged in constructive activities that enhance rather than jeopardize their futures. In addition, many of these after-school programs incorporate anti-smoking curriculum designed to teach their participants about the dangers of tobacco and equip them with the skills to make important life and death decisions.

Research has shown that 13-year-olds left home alone are significantly more likely to smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, and experiment with drugs. In stark contrast, children who participate in productive after-school activities are far less likely to smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs.

It takes many strategies to be effective. We urge Congress to craft a comprehensive program for reducing teen smoking—and to ensure that such an effort includes an essential investment in early childhood development and after-school programs. You can support a down payment on this investment by voting for the Kerry-Bond amendment to S.1415.

Sincerely,

T. Berry Brazelton, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School
Julius Richmond, M.D.
Former U.S. Surgeon General
Edward Zigler, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology, Yale University/
Director, Bush Center for Child Development
and Social Policy
Barry Zuckerman, M.D.
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics,
Boston University School of Medicine

Preeminent pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton and former U.S. Surgeon General Julius Richmond led the list of 44 leaders in health, business, and child development advocating that the United States invest in child care and after-school programs as a way to reduce teen smoking. They sent their letter to every senator in late May, prior to the debates on the tobacco bill.

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Children enroll in new state health insurance programs

(Continued from page 4)

Some states delay action, blunt benefits

CDF's analysis reveals several trends that might make it difficult, if not impossible, for uninsured children in some states to benefit. For example, several states have not yet acted to help large numbers of children. Washington and Wyoming have decided not to implement CHIP in 1998, and several southern states with high numbers of uninsured children are expanding Medicaid to cover families earning only up to 100 percent of poverty. Ten states are charging $200 a year or more in premiums to low-wage working families.

Because CHIP enrollment is underway or beginning this summer in many states, advocates should accelerate their outreach efforts so that all uninsured children sign up for health coverage," said CDF Director of Programs and Policy Susanne Martinez.

It is not enough to enact good policies on paper," Martinez said. "Now is the time for policy makers, state officials, advocates, and others to realize CHIP's potential by actively informing families about the program and making sure their children are enrolled without delay."

CHIP Check-Up: A Healthy Start for Children *is available on the Web at www.childrensdefense.org/chipcheck-intro.html. That report and* An Advocate's Tool Kit *($4.95) are also available by contacting CDF Fulfillment (see page 10).*

Join the CDF Update E-Mail Network!

Receive information weekly from CDF via e-mail on key policy issues affecting children—including child care, child protection, child health, juvenile justice, and family income.

To subscribe, visit CDF's Web site at www.childrensdefense.org or e-mail to majordomo@automailer.com and write in the body of the message: subscribe cdfupdate [your e-mail address]. (Don't use brackets in your message.)

A CHIP Check-Up: How have states done so far?

●●●●● = highest rating, in lollipops
● = lowest rating

State	Coverage[a]	Affordability[b]	Benefits[c]	Family friendliness[d]
Alabama*	●	●	●●●●●	●●●
California	●●●●	●	●●●	●
Colorado	●●●	●	●●	●●●
Connecticut	●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●	●●●●●
Florida***	●●●	●	●●	●
Georgia	●●●●	●●●	●●●●	●●●●
Idaho	●●	●●●●	●●●●●	●●●
Illinois**	●	●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Indiana*	●●	●●●●	●●●●●	●●●
Iowa	●●●	TBD	TBD	●●●
Kansas	●	TBD	●●●●	●●●●
Kentucky	●●●●	●	TBD	TBD
Louisiana*	●	●●●	●●●●●	●●●●
Maine	●●●	●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●
Maryland	●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Massachusetts**	●●●●	●●●	●	●●●●
Michigan	●●●	●●●●●	●●●●	●●●●
Minnesota	●●●●●	NA	●●●●●	●●●●
Mississippi*	●	●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Missouri**	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●	●●●●●
Montana	●●	●●	●	●●
Nebraska	●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Nevada	●●●	●●●	●●	●●
New Jersey	●●●	●●●	●●●●	●●●●●
New Mexico	●●●●●	TBD	TBD	●●●●●
New York**	●●●●●	●●●	●	●●
North Carolina	●●●	●●●	●●●●	TBD
Ohio*	●●	●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Oklahoma**	●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Oregon	●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Pennsylvania**	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●	●●
Rhode Island*	●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●
South Carolina	●●	●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
South Dakota	●	●●●	●●●●●	●●●●
Tennessee	●●●●	●	●●●●●	●●●●
Texas*	●	●	●●●●●	●●●
Utah	●●●●	●●●	●●	●●●
Vermont	●●●●●	NA	●●●●●	●●●●●
Virginia	●●●	●●●●	●●●●●	TBD
West Virginia	●●	TBD	●●●	●●●
Wisconsin	●●	●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●

* Future expansions are under discussion. ** Legislative action is pending. *** Statute adopted after April 30 is not incorporated into this analysis.

Note: NA = Previously covered children through age 18 with family incomes up to and above 200 percent of poverty. Their affordability policies for comparatively higher income CHIP children may not be comparable to other states.

TBD = To be determined by state officials.

[a] Based on maximum income eligibility, crowd-out policies, and age restrictions.

[b] Based on the income level through which copayments and premiums are not charged, and premium and copayment levels in specific income ranges.

[c] Based on divergence from Medicaid services and limits on vision, hearing, dental, mental health, substance abuse, durable medical equipment, and rehabilitation therapy services.

[d] Based on whether different children within a family can be split between programs, whether the same plans and providers serve multiple programs, whether children are enrolled in Medicaid when turned down by separate programs because of apparent Medicaid eligibility, whether multiple programs use the same application form and the same marketing and outreach program, whether applications are short and may be mailed in, and whether applicants must prove the value of family assets.

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Short Takes

New studies stress need for action on child care

Two comprehensive reports released this spring offer insight into serious problems undermining the quality of child care in America.

Worthy Work, Unlivable Wages: The National Child Care Staffing Study, 1988-1997 warns that the quality of U.S. child care centers "teeters on the brink of disaster." It cites evidence of low wages, high levels of job turnover, difficulties in finding qualified teaching staff, inconsistent care, and the potential for unsafe conditions for children. Published by the Center for the Child Care Workforce as a follow-up to *National Child Care Staffing Study* of 1988, *Worthy Work, Unlivable Wages* tracks U.S. child care data and trends over nine years. Researchers based their findings on surveys of 158 child care centers in the metropolitan areas of Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, Phoenix, and Seattle.

The study documents that job conditions in the child care profession, which have a major impact on the quality of care children receive, have not improved since 1988. Researchers say the solution lies in a well-targeted investment of public funding to ease the child care burdens faced by parents and caregivers.

Ayuh Adjustable Tools © Ohio

The 1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book, the Annie E. Casey Foundation's report on the well-being of children in the United States, highlights the growing need for affordable, quality child care and after-school programs for millions of children.

The ninth annual *KIDS COUNT* report focuses particularly on the child care needs of low-income working families and on the increased challenges presented by the growing numbers of families trying to leave welfare. Many of these parents have jobs with nontraditional hours. The report finds dangerously few options for parents who don't work traditional 9-to-5, Monday-to-Friday shifts, when child care is most often available. Such parents make up more than one-quarter of all working poor families.

The study cites several pressing needs, including expanding efforts to help families afford care (for example, by increasing funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant), ensuring better compensation and training for child care professionals, and providing more information to help parents learn about their child care options.

Worthy Work, Unlivable Wages, $19.95, is available from the Center for the Child Care Workforce, 733 15th Street NW, Suite 1037, Washington, DC 20005; 1-800-U-R-WORTHY or 202-737-7700. The 1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book *is available free from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 701 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202; 410-223-2890; or visit www.aecf.org/kc1998/toc.htm on the Web.*

Improving conditions for jailed youths

Twenty-five years ago, CDF's *Children in Adult Jails* revealed the horrible conditions facing children in 449 jails and prisons nationwide. Today, with more than 100,000 children in juvenile detention centers and more than 10,000 in adult jails, far too many facilities remain severely overcrowded, lack adequate services such as health care and education, and threaten the safety and well-being of young people.

Child advocates, parents, and program administrators can help improve these conditions in a number of ways, according to *Beyond the Walls: Improving Conditions of Confinement for Youth in Custody*. This new publication from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) outlines six methods for improving oversight, monitoring, and services for detained and committed youths without resorting to litigation.

To order Beyond the Walls, *call DOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Clearinghouse, 1-800-638-8736; fax 301-519-5212; or visit www.ncjrs.org/ojjhome.htm on the Web.*

Adults cut from food stamps go hungry

An alarmingly high percentage of adult hospital patients recently cut from the food stamp program are going hungry because they cannot afford food, reports a study published in the April 15, 1998, issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The findings warn of likely tragic consequences should lawmakers further scale back the program.

The 1996 welfare law eliminated food stamp assistance for most immigrant children and families as well as for able-bodied adults ages 18-50. The law also reduced benefits for all other food stamp households. Two-thirds of the spending cuts affect families with children.

According to the study conducted in a Minneapolis-area county, 12 percent of the 737 patients interviewed reported not having enough food, 13 percent reported not eating for an entire day, and 14 percent reported being hungry but not eating because they could not afford food.

Of those interviewed, 40 percent had received food stamps the previous year. Of these former food stamp recipients, 50 percent had their food stamps reduced or eliminated.

To order copies, $11 each, contact Subscriber Services Center, PO Box 10945, Chicago, IL 60610; 312-670-7827; fax, 312-464-5831.

One step for children

Plan a Sabbath to enhance service and advocacy for children

(see page 5)

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Of Note

Publications

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 1996 Trends in Academic Progress, free from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, measures student academic achievement. To order, write the National Library of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20208-5641, or call 1-800-424-1616.

21st Century Families: Blueprints to Create Family-Friendly Workplaces, Schools, and Governments, by Gayle Kimball, PhD, explores the challenges faced by working parents and their children and examines how the workplace, schools, and legislation can better accommodate them. 445 pp. $45 for institutions, $25 for individuals. From Equality Press, 42 Ranchita Way, Suite 5, Chico, CA 95928 or call 530-345-8118.

America's Youth: Measuring the Risk, from the Institute for Youth Development, presents up-to-date statistics on such topics as alcohol, drugs, sex, tobacco, and violence, in an easy-to-use handbook. 89 pp. $12.50 from the Institute for Youth Development, PO Box 16560, Washington, DC 20041; 703-471-8750.

Web site

Learn more about how welfare reform is affecting children and families from a new Web site developed by the Research Forum on Children, Families, and the New Federalism, a project of the National Center for Children in Poverty. The site features a database with detailed descriptions of dozens of evaluations being conducted on welfare reform and income security programs. Visit the site at www.researchforum.org, call 212-304-7150, or e-mail info@researchforum.org.

Resources

The U.S. Department of Education recently unveiled its National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities. The new clearinghouse provides free information and assistance on all facets of school facility planning, design, construction, and maintenance. For more information, call 1-888-552-0624, or e-mail nceinfo@edfacilities.org.

Kinship training materials developed by Eastern Michigan University's Department of Social Work are now available from the National Resource Center for Permanency Planning. These materials address system barriers and practice models, culturally responsive case planning and review mechanisms, and support continuity. The center offers two curricula—one for child welfare worker and the other for kinship caregivers. For ordering information, call 212-452-7053 or e-mail nrcpp@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu.

Children's Defense Fund
25 Years
LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND.

CDF Reports

Marian Wright Edelman, President

July 1998
Volume 19, Number 7

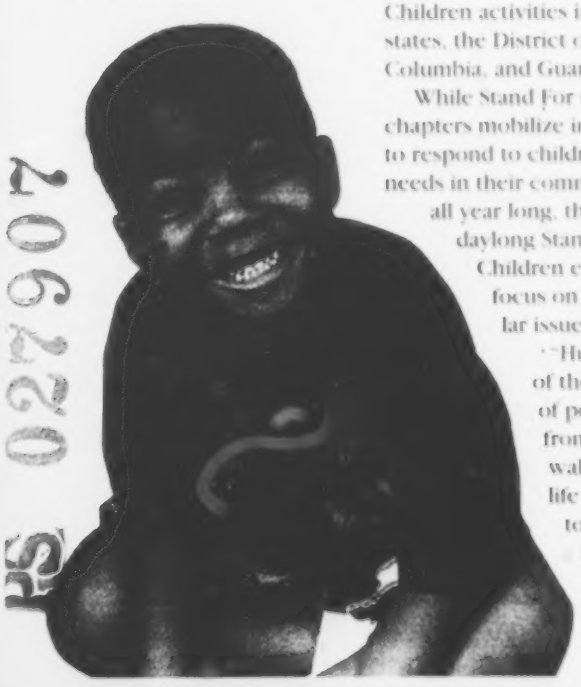
Grassroots give sturdy support to Stand For Children '98

Eight months pregnant, Donette Dance couldn't travel to Washington, D.C., for the first Stand For Children in 1996. So she grew her own event in her hometown of Blackfoot, in Idaho's southeastern corner. She ended up delivering her speech while in labor, then heading to the hospital to deliver her son.

Now the director of Bingham County Stand For Children in Idaho, Dance coordinated a local Stand For Children rally for the third year in a row. This year's event—which included speeches from Blackfoot's mayor, chief of police, and area school officials—was one of more than 1,200 homegrown Stand For Children activities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam.

While Stand For Children chapters mobilize individuals to respond to children's needs in their communities all year long, the annual daylong Stand For Children events focus on a particular issue.

"Hundreds of thousands of people from every walk of life came together this year to raise awareness about child care to support local, state, and national measures to improve its quality and affordability," said Jonah Edelman, executive director of Stand For Children. "Thanks to the hard work and commitment of our organizers and chapters, Stand For Children '98 was the largest yet."



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Standing For Children, from Boston to Burbank

In Boston, a rally at the state capitol showed support for a budget proposal that would provide crucial funding for child care and children's programs. Participants decorated the state house with 1,300 paper dolls made by children throughout Massachusetts; the dolls symbolize that state's 13,000 children who are on waiting lists for subsidized child care.

In Burbank, Calif., people ran, jumped, and slid for children. They took on the challenges of an obstacle course at Universal Studios Hollywood theme park to raise $3,000 to help develop

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Grassroots give sturdy support to Stand For Children '98

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a quality child care center for Pacoima Urban Village, a nonprofit organization in San Fernando.

The grassroots nature of Stand For Children allows community organizers to determine what type of activities to sponsor to best reach and serve their area's children. This year, some chose to host political forums to press the case for more affordable, quality child care. Many sponsored community service events, including building and renovating playgrounds (see boxes below and on page 13). Some opened their child care centers to the public or held ceremonies of appreciation for those who provide quality child care.

More than 400 communities held rallies and fairs to stress the need for laws and policies that help provide quality care for every child. Said Dance, "Some people have been saying that families should keep their kids at home, that if they don't, they aren't actually standing for children." Her speech gave her the opportunity to respond, telling of the challenges local community members have had.

One of her examples included a single father who had great difficulty finding quality care he could depend on for his two children so he could support his family. "People need to work to make ends meet, but in order to work, they need to have somebody to care for their children," said Dance.

Taking stands throughout the year

The Bingham County Stand For Children Chapter held its rally on May 2. Moving the event up nearly a month allowed the area schools and children to participate. "It made a big difference," said Dance. Indeed, the attendance increased tenfold over the previous year. She

(See page 13)

CDF gratefully acknowledges the following organizations for their generosity in sponsoring the Stand For Children playground project.

Ross, Dixon & Masback
Fannie Mae Foundation
Freddie Mac Foundation
First Union National Bank
The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Wright, Robinson, Osthimer & Tatum
Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo
Foley & Lardner

Hard work becomes child's play

"This is the first 'blitzbuild' of its kind," said Drew McGowan, taking only a moment to look up from a frantic morning of measuring, drilling, hammering, and hauling. McGowan was describing the Stand For Children event in Washington, D.C., that convened more than 1,000 volunteers to build five playgrounds from scratch in two days.

Photo © Lloyd Wolf

Photo © Lloyd Wolf

Photo © Sherri Byrand

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (far right) and CDF President Marian Wright Edelman joined children from Northwest Settlement House in Washington, D.C., as they watched their new playground become a reality.

They also pitched in to clean up four other playgrounds (see page 13). After all the hard work, the volunteers and others gathered at the Shiloh Baptist Church for a gospel concert by several children's choirs.

One of the new playgrounds went up at the preschool at Northwest Settlement House, which provides a range of services for members of the District's Shaw community. "We didn't have the money to put the old playground up to standards, so we had to remove all of the equipment," said Executive Director Ron Wilmore. "For more than a year, the children have had to play just on the concrete and asphalt. This new playground is a dream come true for all of them."

The blitzbuild kicked off the KaBOOM! Let Us Play campaign to make more children's dreams come true. A nonprofit organization, KaBOOM! is dedicated to providing playgrounds for children who live in neighborhoods without them. "We're going to build another 60 playgrounds in D.C. and 1,000 across the country before the year 2000," said McGowan, director of the KaBOOM! Washington, D.C.,-area office, which partnered with CDF and Stand For Children for the multi-site build.

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CDF Reports

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http://www.childrensdefense.org

A Voice for Children

by CDF President Marian Wright Edelman

Clearing the smoke from our children's future

I sometimes think our network of advocates is like the hardworking groundskeeper of an extraordinary English garden. We've laid a meticulous design in order to cultivate our children's garden through any contingency. We sow a variety of seeds and care for them with a watchful eye—all to nurture and enrich the lives of America's children over time in a manner that can continue to grow perennially.

In June, the 'plant bed' tended by Child Care NOW! had its first bloom with the Senate's strong 66-33 support for the tobacco bill's Kerry/Bond amendment, which earned the biggest vote for child care in nearly 10 years, thanks to your hard work. By passing this bipartisan amendment, named for co-sponsors Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Kit Bond (R-Mo.), Republican and Democratic senators alike acknowledged the importance of child care and after-school programs in providing children a firm foundation and positive alternatives to the streets and preventing their futures from going up in smoke.

Although the tobacco bill appears to have wilted on the vine of a $40 billion tobacco industry media campaign, it will grow again in some form. Saying that "the original intent of this bill to curb teen smoking has been lost," Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) began working with others, including Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas), to kill the tobacco bill, and with it, the Kerry/Bond amendment.

Lott and the small minority who voted against Kerry/Bond's child care provisions missed the point echoed by tens of thousands of people across the country with Stand For Quality Child Care day and in the Child Care NOW! coalition. We will continue to stand against what Sen. Kerry called the tobacco companies' "craven policy to corrupt children" and in favor of providing children a quality start in life and after-school care.

We will continue to stand against what Sen. Kerry called the tobacco companies' "craven policy to corrupt children."

The Senate Kerry/Bond decision reflected the advice of scores of health, business, law enforcement, and child development leaders who link a host of social ills to inadequate child care and after-school activities. Such programs provide preschool and school-age children the anchors and outlets they need to reject behaviors that put their lives and others' lives at risk.

These experts, like child advocates, lament the fact that only one out of the every 10 children who currently qualify for child care assistance actually gets it. Working families in every state are struggling on modest incomes, even skimping on food, to pay for child care so they can keep the jobs they need to make ends meet. Too often, parents have to worry because they must place children in deficient and sometimes dangerous care.

We must not let the misleading statements by Sen. Lott and pro-tobacco industry spokespeople paint the urgent need of working parents for affordable quality care as an effort to create a "big brother" bureaucracy. Kerry/Bond earmarked sorely needed funds for the states to use under the existing Child Care and Development Block Grant passed during the Bush Administration.

We must not let tobacco proponents create a false "mommy war." Parents should have a genuine chance to stay home to care for their children without living in poverty and to work without worrying about their children's safety. The point is to ensure children good care. As he presented his amendment, Sen. Bond said: "While government cannot and should not become a substitute for parents and

(See page 12)

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"Shattered bodies, shattered lives": Ending gun violence against children

In Seattle, a 4-year-old died in her sleep—she was shot in the head when her upstairs neighbors started fooling with a gun and fired through the floorboards. In Wilmington, N.C., an 8-year-old died in a ditch after shooting himself in the face.

These children numbered among the hundreds under age 20 who were killed in America by gunfire in just the first six months of 1998.

"From coast to coast in the United States, children are being struck down by bullets from guns held in their own hands, the hands of other children, and the hands of adults," said CDF President Marian Wright Edelman. "Whether they occur by accident or intent, these shootings have an intolerable end result: shattered bodies and shattered lives."

CDF recognizes that it is imperative to educate the public—and public officials—about gun violence and effective ways to end the violent deaths of children. CDF's recent activities include distributing information packets on Capitol Hill that spell out the deadly toll guns have taken on America's children and youths.

CDF told members of Congress that S. 10, a bill moving through the Senate, does not do enough to get guns out of the hands of children, even though guns play a major role in crimes committed by youths. For example, 70 percent of all teen homicides and 64 percent of teen suicides involve firearms, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Said CDF Assistant General Counsel Kim Wade, "When it comes to any juvenile crime bill, CDF has a clear-cut bottom line: Legislation that does not seriously deal with gun access does not seriously deal with juvenile crime."

S. 10 would impose penalties for certain gun offenses, including transferring firearms to youths and aiding in illegal purchases. But S. 10 does not take into consideration a range of other initiatives that would provide children with meaningful protection from guns, said Wade. To address specific problems that contribute to children's deaths by gunfire, CDF has asked Congress to consider legislation that emphasizes prevention, adult responsibility, and safety in the following ways:

- Hold adults accountable when they leave guns accessible to children.
- Support youth gun tracking, in which federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies work together to identify and shut down the sources of guns recovered from children at crime scenes.
- Require child safety locks in the design of guns. Leading manufacturers have voluntarily agreed to incorporate these devices, but legislators need to ensure that child safety locks meeting basic standards are used across the industry to protect children from accidents and suicide.

A major congressional proposal, the Children's Gun Violence Prevention Act of 1998, helps address these recommendations. Said Edelman, "This offers a strong starting point for stemming the tide of gun violence in America and safeguarding children's lives."

(See page 14)

In memory of Carlos and 25,000 other slain children

Carlos could ride a bike twice his size, said his neighbors; he had to jump off of it because his feet couldn't touch the ground. And he liked to play "Pow Pow," aiming a fake gun and dodging pretend bullets. Then in April, as Carlos's godmother decorated for his sixth birthday party that afternoon, Carlos and his 4-year-old friend found a real gun in her purse. During their last round of Pow Pow, Carlos fell, shot in the neck by a very real .38-caliber bullet.

Now rather than racing after adventures on his big bike, looking forward to blowing out birthday candles and making wishes toward a bright future, Carlos has become another name on a too-long roster.

Carlos was one of the more than 25,000 children who died from gunfire in America in the last five years.

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Poverty Matters

The benefits of ending child poverty

Despite a booming economy, one out of five children in America remains in poverty, for a total of 14.5 million. The number of poor children in two pivotal groups of families—the working poor and the extremely poor—is actually rising, driven upward by a weakening economic safety net.

A new report from CDF, *Poverty Matters: The Cost of Child Poverty in America*, makes a compelling case for focusing major new resources on ending child poverty. Countering the notion that parental income makes little difference in children's lives, the report shows that poor children are at two to five times the average risk of low birthweight, stunted growth, iron deficiency, lead poisoning, grade repetition, and other serious problems that have lifelong implications for their ability to succeed and contribute to society.

Poverty Matters also provides new evidence against the myth that flaws of poor parents (such as failure to marry or low motivation) are at the heart of poor children's lasting deficits in learning and earning—rather than lack of basic economic resources. Findings in *Poverty Matters* reveal the following:

- A baby born to a poor mother is more likely to die before his or her first birthday than is a baby born to a high school dropout, an unmarried mother, or a mother who smoked during pregnancy.
- Poor children are twice as likely to be born weighing too little, to suffer stunted growth, or to repeat a year in school.
- Poverty is a greater risk to children's overall health than is living in a single-parent family, according to government researchers.
- Even within the same family, children born during periods when the family was poorer tend to finish less schooling than their brothers or sisters who were born during periods of greater family prosperity, according to recent

(See page 6)

Photo © DigitalVision

Respiratory problems and bad housing

When 5-year-old Jose and his 3-year-old sister Maria suddenly developed breathing problems, their doctor was puzzled. The usual medical treatments didn't work, and the symptoms persisted even after their mother followed instructions to rid the apartment of rugs, dust, and cockroaches. The pediatrician initially disregarded the mother's frustration with her neighbor's smoking—until she realized that the smoke flowed right into the family's apartment through a large hole in the living room wall.

— From "Not Safe at Home: How America's Housing Crisis Threatens the Health of Its Children," a vignette in *Poverty Matters: The Cost of Child Poverty in America* (1997)

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Poverty Matters

(Continued from page 5)

studies. These sibling studies are among the strong new evidence that poverty itself—not ingrained parental flaws—causes lasting damage to children's chances to succeed, prosper, and contribute to society.

Children: Poverty's invisible victims

The report explores the many concrete reasons why poor children may fare worse. For example, poor children are at greater risk of poor nutrition and have less exposure to books, camps, and opportunities for learning. They are three times more likely to live in housing that is crowded, infested, and too cold in winter. They live in homes torn apart by the stress of being unable to pay bills. These and other circumstances of poverty can spell trouble for children's health, learning, and long-term social functioning.

Additionally, more than 1 million low-income young children have anemia (usually as a result of low iron intake), which stops blood cells from carrying oxygen to their bodies and brains, and which is associated with serious long-term learning and behavior problems and lower IQs. Lead poisoning is yet another common problem. Poor children younger than age 5 are four times more likely to suffer from lead poisoning, which has been found to result in lasting brain and kidney damage, hearing loss, and antisocial and criminal behavior.

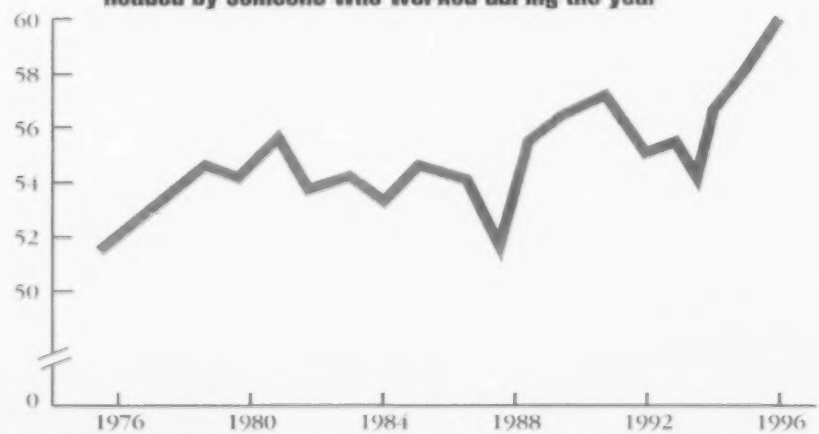
Who are the children living in poverty today? An increasing percentage of poor children live in families where one or more parents work (see graph below). Many live in families where a parent is struggling to make the transition from welfare to work but finding it difficult to locate family-supporting jobs (see box on page 8).

Census Bureau figures report that a growing proportion of children nationwide is "very poor." The number of related children living in "extreme" poverty (below half the federal poverty line, or $6,258 for a family of three) increased from 3.4 million in 1975 to 5.5 million in 1995, and rose once again in 1996 to 5.9 million.

(See page 8)

Percentage of poor families with children headed by someone who worked during the year

Work does not guarantee that families will escape poverty. A large and growing proportion of poor families with children are headed by someone who works.



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund

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"I had to work starting when I was 10"

It was hard to focus on school when you were worrying about survival—things like how to get home from school safely and how we were going to eat that night. In high school, I was a D student. I grew up in the projects, sharing my bedroom with two older sisters, with plenty of crime and poverty around us.

I had to work starting when I was 10. My whole life focus was not on learning; it was on staying alive. I had two or three odd jobs, from cutting grass to working in a janitorial service. That was not for saving for a bicycle but to help pay for rent and food. The bills don't stop coming in because you're poor; they have to get paid. I couldn't sit back and complain.

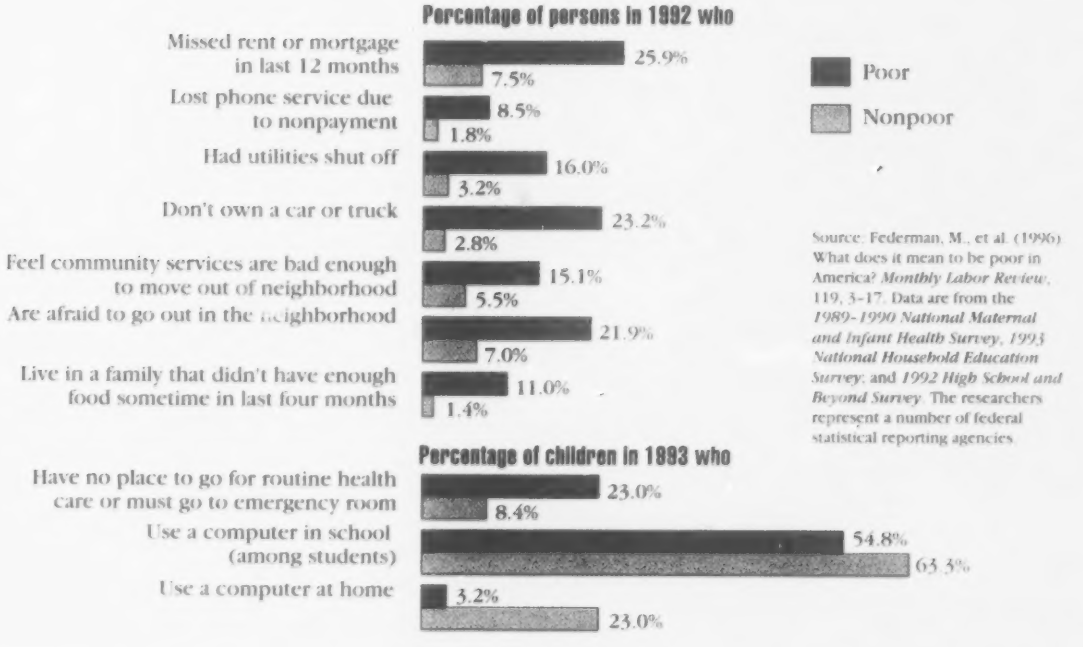
But having to get up the next morning to go to school was hard. Athletics really saved me. Before the ninth grade I had to work multiple jobs. Then in the ninth grade my older sister got a job in a textile factory. That money let me have just one job instead of two or three. That let me start playing sports, which I was never able to play before.

My grades didn't get better, but at least I had something that kept me coming to school. I didn't learn how to study because school wasn't as important as survival. Also being in remedial classes and low-level special ed classes made it hard. Still, I showed I had talent in class and in sports. I went to Hampton University on a full athletic scholarship. It took me well into my junior year of college to realize I was finally in a nurturing environment, where it wasn't about survival. Where I could find material that related to my life and described people who looked like me, an African American. Where I could focus on my studies.

And I began to get all A's.

— Charles Kinard, MSW, ABD,
Connecticut Department of Children
and Families, a vignette in *Poverty Matters: The Cost of Child Poverty in America* (1997)

Living conditions of persons in poor and nonpoor families



Source: Federman, M., et al. (1996) What does it mean to be poor in America? *Monthly Labor Review*, 119, 3–17. Data are from the *1989–1990 National Maternal and Infant Health Survey*, *1993 National Household Education Survey*, and *1992 High School and Beyond Survey*. The researchers represent a number of federal statistical reporting agencies.

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Poverty Matters
(Continued from page 6)

America pays for poverty

"Although individuals themselves pay a high price for growing up poor, child poverty has a steep cost to the nation as well," said CDF Senior Program Associate Arloc Sherman, author of *Poverty Matters*.

For every year that the country's 14.5 million poor children continue to experience poverty, the report projects that their total lifetime contribution to the economy will decline by about $130 billion because poor children tend to grow up to be less educated, less productive workers.

Cost projections are updates of figures CDF originally presented in the 1994 book *Wasting America's Future*. Those figures were based on findings commissioned by CDF from leading researchers and assembled under the supervision of a team of top scholars led by Nobel Prize-winning economist Robert M. Solow.

Children are facing many serious problems these days, but lack of jobs and income for their parents is one of the worst, said CDF Family Income Director Deborah Weinstein.

"As we approach the second anniversary of the welfare law, which ended the federal guarantee of cash aid to poor families, America is long overdue for a major national policy aimed at ending child poverty," said Weinstein. "It's time to establish pro-work, pro-family, anti-poverty policies to ensure families have the basic tools they need to give their children a fair chance to succeed." (See box on page 9 for action steps.)

As CDF's report makes clear, where ending child poverty is concerned, either America will pay now or it will pay later.

"When families are poor," said Sherman, "children are less likely to thrive. Ending their poverty matters."

Poverty Matters *can be downloaded from CDF's Web site (www.childrensdefense.org) or purchased for $4.95 from CDF Fulfillment (see page 12 for ordering information).*

Studies show many parents fail to find jobs after welfare

Two years after Congress enacted the 1996 welfare law, new state and local surveys find that 30 percent to 60 percent of parents who leave welfare find work. Although employers in some communities report that welfare recipients are more stable and reliable employees (Triumph and Trials in Welfare to Work," *The Washington Post*, May 27, 1998), the vast majority of parents who do get jobs tend to earn below-poverty wages.

Iowa: A survey of families whose benefits were reduced and then eliminated in 1995 and 1996 found that after losing cash benefits, nearly half had not secured jobs. Only 30 percent worked more than 30 hours a week. These parents earned below-poverty wages of $170 a week.

Kentucky: In one sampling of welfare cases, 49 percent of families who left welfare said they did so because they had found a job. Of those parents with jobs, 54 percent worked full time; another 36 percent worked between 25 and 39 hours per week; and 10 percent worked less than 25 hours per week. Thirty-seven percent earned between $5 and $6 an hour, and 33 percent earned between $6 and $8 an hour. Only 10 percent reported that the state helped them find their jobs.

Maryland: Data from the state's unemployment insurance system showed that 54 percent of families had wages after the quarter they left welfare. Typical wages in the quarter after they left welfare were $2,082—less than what a full-time job at minimum wage would provide, suggesting that many parents worked less than full time. The families' typical wages were less than two-thirds of the 1997 federal poverty guidelines for a family of three. Within the first three to six months, 17 percent of the families returned to welfare.

South Carolina: Persistent poverty has been documented carefully, with researchers reporting a rise in deprivation and hunger among families leaving the welfare rolls for work. Interviews with 400 parents who left the welfare rolls between October 1996 and December 1996 revealed that 41 percent were jobless. Of those who found work, the average wage was $6.34 an hour, with work weeks of 34 hours, resulting in below-poverty earnings for a mother and two children.

The new findings confirm earlier studies, such as that in Milwaukee, Wis., reported in the April/May *CDF Reports* article "CDF, New Studies Look at Status of Former Welfare Recipients" but incorrectly referred to as taking place in Michigan. According to that study, only 16 percent of families leaving welfare in September 1996 had above-poverty earnings in the three months that followed. Half of those who were employed at the beginning of 1996 earned less than $500 over three months or were unemployed one year later.

Although 72 percent of those on welfare in Milwaukee in December 1995 worked for at least some period in 1996, half of those who found work after March 1996 were unemployed or only marginally employed one year later. Thirty-eight percent of former welfare recipients showed full-time employment as of late 1996, but only 28 percent remained off welfare three months later and had steady earnings equivalent to at least a full-time, minimum-wage job.

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Taking action to end child poverty

Child poverty is a complex problem, but advocates can make a difference both by raising awareness of the issue and by urging concrete action on sound work- and family-based policies. The following steps can help lift 14.5 million children out of poverty in America.

Policy goals: A work- and family-based approach

- Businesses and federal and state governments should invest in helping families gain affordable, safe, and nurturing **child care**.
- Federal and state governments should increase the **minimum wage** in stages until it can support a family of three above the poverty line, and states should supplement low wages with an **earned income tax credit**.
- Absent parents must do a better job of supporting their children, and states must better enforce the child support obligations of these parents. States also should consider creating model **child support assurance** systems to ensure that children in single-parent homes receive at least a minimum child support payment each month.
- Businesses and states should expand **education and training** opportunities for all low-wage workers, including parents leaving the welfare rolls. Congress should allow states to count education and training as an allowable activity under federal welfare-to-work rules.
- States should end **marriage disincentives**, which still exist in many states' welfare rules, by offering poor two-parent families the same help as single-parent families.
- States must continue to ensure a cash and in-kind **safety net** for children who have lost federal help under the 1996 welfare law, so that no child goes without needed food, clothing, and medical care.

Action steps

- Contact your senators and representative and tell them it is crucial that they address child poverty now. Specifically, urge them to do the following:
  1. Support an increase of $20 billion over five years in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to ensure that low-income working families receive affordable, quality child care that will enable them to find and keep jobs.
  2. Support legislation by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D–Mass.) and Rep. David Bonior (D–Mich.) to increase the minimum wage to $6.15 by January 2000 to help low-wage working families.
  3. Support the amendment by Sen. Paul Wellstone (D–Minn.) to the Higher Education Act giving states the flexibility to allow more education and training for parents leaving welfare for work.
- Attend candidate forums, debates, and speeches and ask those running for office what they will do to eradicate child poverty. Contact reporters and editors at your local newspapers and ask them to interview candidates about their positions on child poverty. For a one-page fact sheet and related materials on child poverty, contact CDF's Family Income Division at 202-662-3542.
- Set up a community forum on child poverty by working with active child advocacy and anti-poverty organizations in your area. Invite religious, labor, and business leaders, policy makers, public officials, service providers, and parents and children affected by poverty.
- Conduct a Child Watch Visitation Program tour of a low-income neighborhood or social service agency in conjunction with the forum. For information on active child advocacy groups or Child Watch Visitation Program coalitions in your area, call CDF at 202-628-8787.
- Write opinion-editorials and letters to the editor outlining the plight of children living in poverty and what should be done about it. Keep a collection of anecdotes and stories about poor children and families to share with the press. Contact state-level advocacy organizations for more information about local public information campaigns on child poverty.

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Necessary

News from the Black Community Crusade for Children

Rekindling the Spirit across generations

An extraordinary intergenerational dialogue among young activists and longtime leaders of the civil rights and children's movements took place at the Former Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tenn., in December 1997. *Rekindling the Spirit: A Vision for the New Millennial Movement to Leave No Child Behind* captures this inspiring exchange of ideas, emotions, and concerns. This new book from the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) explores topics close to the hearts of social reformers seeking to rekindle the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and set forth a vision for the future.

Rekindling the Spirit is a collection of essays from influential leaders, including Andrew Young, Dorothy Cotton, Geoff Canada, and Howard Zinn; Revs. Charles Adams, Zina Jacque, and Otis Moss Jr.; juvenile court judges and other BCCC leaders; and several young advocates for children.

Angelique Scholtz, a young woman striving to help eliminate poverty in the Oakland, Calif., area, wonders in *Rekindling* how leaders avoid getting discouraged. "Sometimes I get a little paralyzed by the issues," Scholtz says. "How do you see all the evil out there for all the years and not get paralyzed, and not just throw up your hands and say, well, let me just put food on the table for my family? So how do you see and hear all the evil that's out there, especially when it comes to our kids, and not just want to lie down and die? Because sometimes that's how I feel, and I'm only 25."

CDF President Marian Wright Edelman encourages advocates everywhere to take inspiration from *Rekindling* to give America's children hope and a brighter future. "Each of us is called on to take one step, even if we can't see the whole stairway," says Edelman. "[Children] need all of us to care, to raise our voices, and to use our votes and leadership on their behalf."

As Dr. John Davis Maguire, a professor at Claremont Graduate University's Center for Democratic Renewal and permanent trustee of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, says in the book: "It's almost like spring flowers trying to come up. We need a new season of surging towards social justice. That's the kind of spirit I'm talking about, and that's the spirit we're trying to rekindle."

Rekindling the Spirit *is available for $12.95 from CDF Fulfillment (see page 12 to order).*

Social Action Day to halt gun violence

Through its Freedom Schools and Student Leadership Network for Children, BCCC is coordinating a Social Action Day, set for July 17, to get the word out about two pressing needs: keeping guns out of children's hands and keeping children safe from violence.

Freedom Schools provide safe, enriching activities to more than 2,000 children during the summer and leadership opportunities to the more than 300 young adults who teach them. The annual Social Action Day provides unique opportunities for children, young people, and community members to examine the problems in their own neighborhoods and uncover ways to resolve them. Activities range from marches, rallies, and community forums to press conferences designed to highlight the reality of gun violence and children.

In addition, local advocates will continue their campaign against Senate bill S.10 because of its potential to harm children in a number of ways.

"The BCCC is campaigning against S.10 for three reasons," said Thomas Bowen, BCCC field organizer. "It proposes to lock up children right alongside adults, it fails to invest in prevention, and it does not properly address gun violence and children."

With the recent escalation of school shootings dominating the headlines, some politicians are scapegoating children, saying they need to be put in adult jails. "We do need to look at our children and make sure they don't fall through the cracks," said Bowen. "But guns made it possible to target and kill so many victims in Jonesboro [Ark.] and Springfield [Ore.]. Adults need to take action to get guns away from children and from anyone who would harm children."

For more information, call Thomas Bowen at 202-662-3796.

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Witnessing children's needs firsthand in Iowa and South Carolina

When a group of community members toured the neonatal intensive care unit at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, they learned firsthand how doctors and nurses care for drug-addicted infants and help them thrive and grow up healthy. Later that day, while visiting a community center in one of the city's low-income housing developments, the same group heard teens explain how the center's after-school program has changed their lives for the better.

These were just two of four eye-opening journeys into local child-serving agencies experienced by participants in a CDF Child Watch Visitation Program June 10 in Des Moines. Other stops included House of Mercy, a shelter that provides substance abuse treatment, mentoring, and tutoring for young mothers. The groups also visited Tiny Tots, a child care program serving high-risk neighborhoods.

Community members not only got to meet service providers who are making a difference, they also witnessed some of the most serious challenges facing children, families, and caregivers today. "It's more like a case study," said **Kristi Knous**, chair of the Child Watch Coalition of Des Moines and child advocate for Blank Children's Hospital. "It's not just a tour—it's a story."

Child Watch Coalition of Des Moines coordinated the event, which was held in conjunction with a statewide volunteer summit. Participants in the Child Watch visit, local business leaders, and elected officials joined **Gov. Terry Branstad** and reigning **Miss America**, **Kate Shindle**.

"We hope that the participants will give of themselves to programs like the ones they visited," Knous said. "Child Watch is a way of reinforcing the need for volunteerism and for ongoing participation. We hope to move people to action in some way."

The Greenville, S.C., Child Watch Coalition hosted 115 business, religious, and community leaders May 11 for a daylong Child Watch Visitation Program that addressed the critical need for early and family literacy. Participants toured six sites chosen because they highlight the opportunity and success in community-wide literacy partnerships.

Photo © Lidis Illess

Gov. Branstad of Iowa (right) took part in a Child Watch Visitation Program at a neonatal unit for drug-addicted babies in Des Moines.

"The business people and civic leaders were able to sit down with children and interact with them," said **Jan Clements**, co-chair of the Greenville Child Watch Coalition. "By actually being face-to-face with a child and seeing his or her needs, participants learned why it's so important for children to receive a good education—and for community members to be involved."

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley addressed the Child Watch attendees as well as 280 additional participants. The program was sponsored by the Junior League of Greenville and NationsBank.

Since 1990, the Child Watch Visitation Program has been taking community leaders out of the patterns of their daily lives and into the real world of struggling children and families. While the focus may differ from community to community, the broader goal of the Child Watch Visitation Program is the same: to improve children's lives by promoting action on the local, state, and national levels.

For more information about the Child Watch Visitation Program, call CDF at 202-628-8787 or visit CDF's Web site at www.childrensdefense.org/childwatch.html.

California campaign gets behind children's health 100 percent

In California, 1.7 million children—more than one in six—have no health insurance. CDF and two California-based child advocacy groups—Children Now and The Children's Partnership—are determined to change this statistic by ensuring that *all* children in the state obtain the health coverage they need and deserve.

With funding from the California Endowment, the three organizations recently launched the **100% Campaign** to work with groups throughout the state on implementation of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Headquartered in Los Angeles and Oakland, the campaign seeks to make certain that uninsured children who qualify for either of the state's health programs for low-income families—Healthy Families or Medi-Cal—actually receive coverage. The campaign also is urging employers, insurers, health care providers, policy makers, community organizations, and others to expand health coverage to uninsured children who don't qualify for those programs.

By building alliances with local groups and agencies, serving as a watchdog, undertaking state-level policy work, and conducting research and analysis, the 100% Campaign hopes to give every California child a healthy start in life.

*For more information, contact CDF field organizer **Kristen Hubbard**, 100% Campaign, 2001 South Barrington Avenue, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90025; 310-268-2444, ext. 105; khubbard@childrensdefense.org.*

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CDF at Work
(Continued from page 11)

Improving children's health in Mississippi

More than 150,000 Mississippi children live in families earning too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to purchase private health insurance. CDF's Southern Regional office in Jackson, Miss., is leading the fight to make sure these children receive comprehensive, affordable health coverage under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

CDF has coordinated several meetings around the state to build consensus among child advocates to ensure CHIP meets the needs of Mississippi children, said **Southern Regional Director Oleta Fitzgerald**. The state has decided to create a new private health insurance program instead of expanding Medicaid, and advocates plan to guide the state as it develops the new program.

"We have been busy identifying working parents who lack health insurance to testify at public hearings," Fitzgerald said. "We want to ensure that our CHIP program is child-friendly and accessible. Children should have access to doctors chosen by their parents and ones who provide continued care for them. And parents shouldn't have to pay premiums they cannot afford."

For more information, call CDF's Southern Regional Office at 601-355-1213.

CDF–Minnesota tracks families moving from welfare to work

Families participating in the Minnesota Family Investment Program, the state's welfare-to-work effort, are having trouble locating child care and transportation, according to a new report from CDF–Minnesota. *Watching Welfare Implementation: A Special Report on Minnesota's Welfare Reform Efforts* is a qualitative study based on interviews with more than 20 service providers in the state. It is geared to policy makers, advocates, media, and the general public.

Watching Welfare Implementation *is available for $3. Call CDF–Minnesota at 651-227-6121 or fax 651-227-2553.*

A Voice for Children: Clearing the smoke from our children's future
(Continued from page 3)

family, we can help them become stronger by equipping them with the resources to meet everyday challenges."

Our children's garden is invaded by many political and self-interest weeds, pests, and bad weather, and, in this instance, a lot of smoke blown by powerful tobacco interests and their congressional allies over our children's health and futures. But we must keep at our crucial task of protecting America's children from those who make money by addicting children to destructive habits.

Keep up the calls and letters, and insist that federal and state policy makers invest in child care and after-school activities in this year's budgets. If we can't take care of our children and help working parents in a year of economic prosperity, when will we do it? Our children's healthy and safe start in life cannot be allowed to fall victim to election-year politics or the continued targeting of children by Big Tobacco. The President and Congress should put their leadership and money behind their words about protecting children. We are not interested in a political issue at the expense of children. We are interested in good child care NOW!

CDF–Ohio studies teen birth rates

The repeat birth rate among Ohio teens is on the decline, according to a new report from CDF–Ohio, *Teen Births: A County by County Factbook*. The 110-page study provides a comprehensive analysis of teen birth trends in Ohio's 88 counties and is the latest in the "For Children, For Ohio's Future" series. The next report in the series, available this August, will focus on maternal and child health.

To order Teen Births: A County by County Factbook, *$12.95, call CDF–Ohio at 614-221-2244.*

Data right at your fingertips

Advocates can now access and download data and reports from CDF simply by visiting CDF's Web site. A 41-page table summarizing actions taken by states under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is the first document available through the new FTP (file transfer protocol) link.

This technology upgrade allows CDF's Web site to house easily downloadable, extensive state-by-state data on the status and participation of children in federal and state programs. The site will also be able to offer online many of CDF's current and future reports that are too large to present effectively through simple on-screen display. Later this year, CDF will open an online store stocked with books, videos, posters, T-shirts, memorabilia, and other items for child advocates.

Download the 41-page table at www.childrensdefense.org/chipcheck_states.html.

CDF Fulfillment ordering information

You may order CDF publications and products by phone, fax, or regular mail. In addition to the stated price, include $2 for shipping and handling of the first item ordered and $1 for each additional item. Sales tax applies only to purchases shipped within the District of Columbia (5.75 percent).

CDF asks that all orders less than $25 be prepaid. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Discounts are available for bulk purchases, and buyers should contact the Director of Fulfillment for availability of quantity discounts. CDF has a no-return policy. Buyers should allow four to six weeks for delivery.

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Grassroots give sturdy support to Stand For Children '98
(Continued from page 2)

appreciates Stand For Children's flexibility in letting each chapter decide when, where, and how to host events. "One day a year is simply not enough to stand and think about children. We need to work all year," she said.

The Bingham County Chapter has extended its reach and will Stand For Children in the eastern Idaho state fair parade in September. In addition, chapter members are working together to make a local lake safer for children.

In Wilmington, the Stand For Children Delaware Chapter held a press event June 1 to kick off a series of activities slated for the summer. The attorney general and members of the state legislature attended the press conference. Also, for the third year in a row, the chapter obtained a proclamation from the governor making June Stand For Children month.

This summer, Stand For Children Delaware will take community leaders into neighborhoods where there is a lack of child care and after-school programming. "They will be able to see firsthand all of the things that impact the lives of these young folks," said Vivian Young, leader of the chapter's Child Watch Visitation Program.

Stand For Children Delaware has also become active in testifying before the state legislature on issues related to children. "We come with the facts and the stats," said Young. "Because we are always prepared and make our point very clearly, we have established a good reputation, and they now sit up and pay attention."

At the same time that communities all over the country were designing and engaging in Stand For Children activities, a Cyber-Stand For Children enabled more than 1,000 people to send online postcards to Congress in support of legislation to make more affordable, quality child care available to working families. Those without access to the Internet were able to call their senators for free through a toll-free number donated by Working Assets' Long Distance. More than 10,000 people phoned in support for child care and after-school programs that would give children the boost they need in life—without draining their families' budget.

Taking special tactics to Stand For Children

When it comes to rescuing most hostages, Sergeant Ed Martinez knows what to do; he's part of the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police SWAT team. His training in special weapons and tactics, however, didn't cover the type of hostage situation going on in a Capitol Hill neighborhood that had six homicides in just one month this past spring.

Photo © Sherri Byrand

Families have been locking themselves into their homes to hide from drug dealers and addicts. No child dared to go to the local play area at the closed-down Sherwood Recreation Center.

For this situation, Martinez said he has had to improvise. As part of Stand For Children, he and other District police officers teamed up with area residents and volunteers from around the city to clean up the rec center. Armed with brooms, shovels, and gloves, they gathered more than three dozen large bags of broken glass, litter, syringes, and plastic envelopes used to store crack.

"It's just a first step," said Martinez, who has been seeking donations for materials to fence in and lock up the rec center yard. The Navy Seabees have already agreed to help install a fence, adding barbed wire to discourage trespassing. A local contractor has signed on to repave the basketball courts.

As for Martinez, he's moving back into the neighborhood after a nine-year absence. Just that week, he bought a house right around the corner from the rec center. "I wanted to be close by," he said. "I'm committed to making this a safe place for kids to play."

Largest 1998 Stand For Children events

Some 20,000 children and adults gathered in New York's Central Park to Stand For Children. The daylong event featured entertainment by Elmo, The Broadway Kids—children who are veterans of the New York stage—and Universoul Circus, the nation's only Black circus. A petition drive urged Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R–N.Y.) to vote for the Kerry/Bond amendment (see page 3) to support child care through tobacco funds.

Photo © Lisa Schock

In Central Park, young and old had a ball celebrating and standing up for child care. "It's wrong that 30,000 children in New York are on waiting lists," said CDF President Marian Wright Edelman, who attended the event. "We don't want them to wait—we want them to be in quality child care now."

More than 5,000 attended a Stand For Children community fair, rally, and literacy campaign in Stockton, Calif.

More than 5,000 in San Francisco attended the "Make Space For Kids" Family Day and Street Fair, which was dedicated to Stand For Children.

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"Shattered bodies, shattered lives": Ending gun violence against children
(Continued from page 4)

Crafting a comprehensive plan to save children

"It's time for us as a nation to take responsibility for the guns in our society and start saving our children," said Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D–N.Y.), whose husband was fatally shot on a Long Island Rail Road commuter train during a mass murder that also left her son critically wounded.

"Keeping guns out of the hands of children is everyone's responsibility," she said. "Every gun manufacturer, every gun dealer, every gun owner, every school, and every parent must do their part. And so must the U.S. Congress."

With Sen. Edward Kennedy (D–Mass.) and 38 other members of Congress—including Reps. John Porter (R–Ill.) and Marge Roukema (R–N.J.), McCarthy has introduced the Children's Gun Violence Prevention Act of 1998; the draft includes important initiatives to protect children (see box below).

The bill, said McCarthy, "is based on three simple principles: responsibility, education, and safety. This bill is not about politics—it's about our children. It's not about Republicans or Democrats; it's about our families. Too many children, too many mothers, and too many families have suffered too much already."

Cutting off children's access to guns

"When in the name of God is this country going to wake up to what is going on?" asked Sen. Dale Bumpers (D–Ark.) the day after the fatal schoolyard shootings in Jonesboro. That tragedy in his home state prompted Bumpers to sign on to the Child Firearm Access Protection Act (S.1917), which has been incorporated into the Children's Gun Violence Prevention Act.

Sens. Richard Durbin (D–Ill.) and John Chafee (R–R.I.) are the bipartisan co-sponsors of S.1917, which builds on Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws already in place in 15 states. It sets *federal* criminal penalties for adults whose improperly stored guns are used by children to commit acts of violence against themselves or others.

"A troubled child is a sad reality, but a troubled child with a gun can be a tragedy," said Durbin. "Too many schools and playgrounds have become shooting galleries. How many more of these tragedies will it take before Congress and more states pass common-sense legislation to keep guns out of the hands of children?"

On the Senate floor, Bumpers decried the easy accessibility of guns in the United States, using statistics to show that guns do more harm than good. He pointed out that children under age 15 are 12 times more likely to be killed by a gun in America than in 25 other industrialized nations. "For every case in which an individual used a firearm kept in the home in a self-defense homicide, there were 1.3 unintentional deaths, 4.6 criminal homicides, and 26 suicides involving firearms," said Bumpers.

Protecting children by providing positive alternatives

Data released by the National Center for Health Statistics in June 1997 showed a 10 percent decrease over the previous year in the number of children killed by gunfire.

Although this was good news, the statistics also showed that the number of children who were victims of gun homicides was triple that of 1983. Four children per day were committing suicide by guns, as compared with three children per day in 1983.

"The shootings on school grounds that have left more than 20 children and educators dead are being called an epidemic of gun violence at America's schools," said Wade. "The full picture of our national epidemic is even more gruesome, as 14 children die *every day* from gunfire in the United States, in and out of school."

Wade stressed the importance of providing positive alternatives to the street corners and empty homes where youths too often hang out. For example, Freedom Schools sponsored by the Black Community Crusade for Children provide safe havens for children in low-income communities (see box on page 10). Said Wade, "A national survey of police chiefs showed that 92 percent supported investment in youth development programs as an effective way to reduce crime."

A two-pronged approach is necessary to keep America's children safe from gunfire: legislation that stresses prevention, adult responsibility, and safety regarding guns; and a national commitment to providing quality after-school programs. Said Wade, "We can both save and enrich the lives of America's children by giving them access to out-of-school activities instead of access to guns."

The Children's Gun Violence Prevention Act of 1998

In their draft of the proposed bill, the congressional sponsors were considering the following items as *CDF Reports* went to press.

- New safety standards on handguns, including child-resistant trigger standards and child safety locks.
- Studies on how best to make guns more child resistant.
- Ban on juvenile possession of semiautomatic assault rifles and assault shotguns.
- Automatic revocation of the license of any dealer who willfully sells a gun to a juvenile through a third party.
- Requirement of two forms of identification for individuals under age 24 to purchase guns.
- Fines of up to $10,000 and imprisonment of up to six months for adults whose guns are used by children in an act of violence.
- Authorization of $10 million over three years for grants to state and local governments to develop children's firearm injury surveillance systems.
- Authorization of $10 million over five years to expand the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, which tracks guns that have been recovered from children back to their original sources.

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Short Takes

Disturbing housing trends documented

Of the 12.5 million people in America's worst housing, 4.5 million are children, according to a recent report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The report notes that the number of households with worst case housing needs remained at an all-time high in 1995 (with especially sharp increases for working families). The report concludes that economic growth alone will not relieve families with limited incomes. The HUD study also dispels the myth that families in the worst housing situations are found only in big cities: One-third of the households with worst case needs are in the suburbs.

HUD defines households with the greatest needs as unassisted renters who make less than half of the local median income and who pay more than half of their income for rent or who live in substandard housing. These families have to face a range of hardships, from not having enough money for food to needing to overcrowd their housing situation, with sometimes four or more people living in the same room.

Andrew Cuomo, HUD secretary, said he "look[s] forward to working with the Congress to try to reverse the disturbing trends documented in this report." A good partnership between the federal agency and Congress could make a difference for millions of children, giving them decent plumbing, nutritious meals, and some day a room of their own.

For more details on Rental Housing Assistance—The Crisis Continues: The 1997 Report to Congress on Worst Case Housing Needs, *contact the HUD Office of Policy Development and Research, Washington, DC 20410-6000.*

Smoking seduces more youngsters

More and more teens are trading in their bubble gum for tobacco, according to a new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The report revealed that 48.2 percent of teenage boys and 36.4 percent of teenage girls use cigarettes, cigars, or chewing tobacco.

According to the report, Hispanic and White teens are still the largest group of tobacco users, but Black teens are starting tobacco use faster than any other group.

The CDC is looking into why teen smoking is increasing, but an unofficial response from the White House reports that affordability is a likely factor, adding that tobacco prices have failed to keep up with inflation and the tobacco industry often cuts prices on teen favorites.

The increase in teen smoking can also be tied to the ad campaigns the tobacco industry targets toward young people, said Greg Haifley, acting director of CDF's Health Division. He emphasized the need for legislation that would end such tobacco advertising. "About 3,000 children start smoking every day and 90 percent of adults started smoking while in their teens. The time is now to end the horrific practices of the tobacco industry and put our nation on the path to reducing teen smoking."

Photo © Cleo Photography

Washington state: Creating real jobs to replace welfare

Washington state is turning heads with a new program that helps parents make the often difficult transition from welfare to work. The program, the Community Jobs Initiative (CJI), gives parents on welfare the opportunity to earn wages for work that benefits the community while they gain skills and job experience. As of June 1, CJI began placing 540 parents into nine-month community jobs.

CJI builds on Vermont's Community Service Employment—a program that places long-term welfare recipients in wage-paying jobs in public and private nonprofit agencies. CJI expands the Vermont example by developing individualized plans to build skills more likely to lead to an unsubsidized job. It is targeted to individuals who have been unable to find unsubsidized jobs.

CJI differs from workfare programs tried in other states by offering a paycheck, not a welfare check. Participants work 20 hours per week and are paid federal minimum wage plus 20 percent of their gross wages to reimburse work-related expenses. Funds previously used to provide cash assistance cover CJI's costs.

If wages are not equal to prior welfare benefits, participants receive a supplemental grant. They also receive the same sick and annual leave benefits offered to the contractor's regular employees. They are eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. Case managers work with participants to ensure they make up any missed work hours; if not, the workers lose pay.

Washington plans to expand the program over the next four years. CJI's growth will be determined in part by funding decisions made by the state's legislature during biennial budget deliberations early in 1999.

For more information, contact Paul Knox, Community Jobs Initiative Manager, Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development at 360-586-8973.

One step for children

Take a work- and family-based approach to lift America's children out of poverty

(see page 9)

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The Stand For Children Pledge

- ♥ I pledge to Stand For Children every day.
- ♥ I pledge to be their best friend and make them feel special.
- ♥ I pledge to find time to listen to their hearts and hold them in my arms.
- ♥ I pledge to kiss them a lot and never stop saying, "I love you."
- ♥ I pledge to give them the education they deserve and applaud their successes.
- ♥ I pledge to hang out, have fun, and be silly together.
- ♥ I pledge to pamper them when they are sick, to be available and listen to them.
- ♥ I pledge to feed them when they are hungry, keep the promises I make, and stay with them when they are afraid.
- ♥ I pledge to thank them, hug them, and be sincere.
- ♥ I pledge to be happy and make them happy by setting boundaries that keep them safe.
- ♥ I pledge to notice them, smile a lot, and forget my worries to focus only on them.
- ♥ I pledge to support, respect, trust, and love them, every day, no matter what!

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Children's Defense Fund
25 Years
LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND.

CDF Reports

Marian Wright Edelman,
President

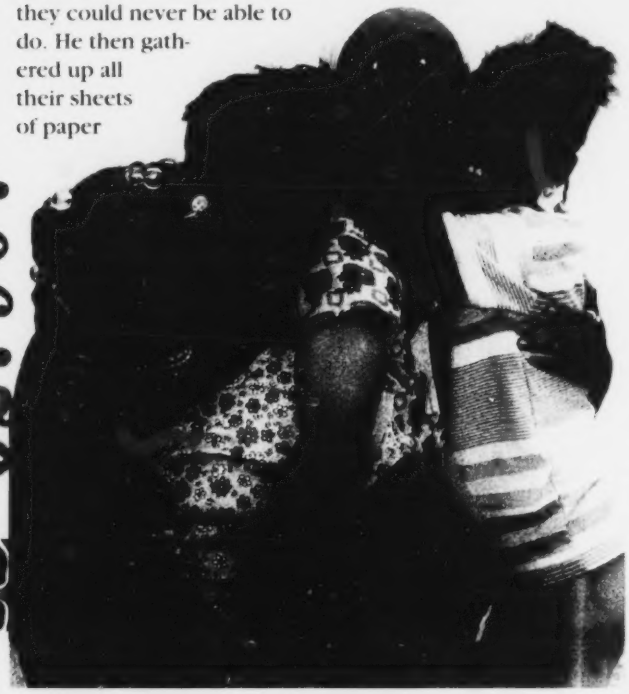
August 1998
Volume 19, Number 8

Freedom Schools unlock the doors to children's potential

For 10 children in Washington, D.C., their summer began with a funeral. In the front yard of a Freedom School sponsored by Sojourner's Neighborhood Center, they buried "I can't."

Their mentor, Cameron Poles, had them write down all the things that they thought they could never be able to do. He then gathered up all their sheets of paper and dug a hole to lay all those fears and excuses to rest.

"Adults in this community feel a sense of hopelessness, saying things like, 'I'm not going to vote because it won't make a difference.' Through Freedom Schools, these children realize that they can do things, that they can be a positive force," said Poles.



By integrating social action, conflict resolution, and reading, the Freedom School curriculum shows children how they can make a difference—in themselves, their families, their community, their country, and the world. Local organizations adopt the curriculum, which was developed at the CDF regional office in Bennettsville, S.C., to use in their summer programs. Last school year, four sites piloted an after-school version that is now available to other Freedom Schools across the nation.

"The reading curriculum is the center from which we operate, providing the children with role models and hitting on issues they care about," said Robin Adams, a Freedom School Ella Baker Trainer and a frequent volunteer at Sojourner's Freedom School. (For more on the Ella Baker Trainers, see page 11.)

Adding in how to cooperate with others and carry out social action, Freedom

(See page 2)

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Freedom Schools unlock the doors to children's potential

(Continued from page 1)

Schools teach children they have the power to change things if they work together. "They learn to build on their strengths," said Adams. "They learn how to deal with their challenges."

Those challenges can be many. "The streets our children have to walk just to get here are so unsafe. And they come with so much baggage because of it," said La'Mont Geddis, the site coordinator for Sojourner's Freedom School. Where they live, as with the other 32 communities Freedom Schools serve, crime rates are high, while incomes are low and positive role models are few to nonexistent.

"Freedom Schools do more than give these children a place to spend the summer or hang out after school," said Geddis. "We give them the skills and experience they need to become effective leaders. We give them possibilities."

Freedom Schools unlock a child's potential by embodying a vision for education through four core values:

1. All children can learn when they are nurtured and taught by knowledgeable and caring adults who believe in them and who are committed to sharing with them the joys of learning.
2. Children must be listened to, treated with respect, and offered opportunities to learn about their rich culture and heritage.
3. Knowledge is power. Reading unlocks the door to a child's access to that power.
4. Parents are vital partners in their children's education.

Photo © Sherri Byrand

Children, like these teens from Sojourner's Neighborhood Center, learn to "Drop Everything and Read" at Freedom School. Instead of focusing on the "how to's" of reading, the curriculum helps children fall in love with books.

Making book learning practical and fun

"How in the world are we going to get children to read in the summertime?"

That was the first question Richelle Phillips, director of Family and Community Programs at the Friends Neighborhood Guild, asked when she learned that the century-old community service center in Philadelphia had adopted the Freedom School curriculum for its children's summer program.

Phillips said that she and her staff soon found out that the task would be far easier than they imagined.

"It helped that Freedom School training spent a whole day on how to best present the reading to the children," said Felicia Coward, executive director of the Friends Neighborhood Guild.

"Learning doesn't have to be boring or painful—it can be one of the most exciting things you could ever do."

(See page 11 for more on staff training.) She added that the curriculum itself also motivates the children to read. "It's really well-developed, culturally sensitive. The stories are about children like them, with problems like theirs."

Erika Woods, an intern teaching at one of the Guild's two Freedom Schools, said the books offer an excellent springboard for getting children to think about ways to resolve conflicts in their own lives. "We start out with the conflict for the character in the story, asking, 'What is this boy's problem? Why is he so mad?' The children have no difficulty recognizing the conflict," said Woods. "But it's very hard for them to think up resolutions, at least in the beginning.

"So we have them brainstorm ways for the characters to overcome their problems," she said. "Then when something occurs in the classroom that is similar to the conflict they read about, we can refer them back to the story and the list of resolutions they developed. They discover that there's more than one way to overcome the challenges in their lives."

(See page 14)

Continuing a crusade

Finishing their sixth consecutive summer and gearing up for the first official year of after-school programming, Freedom Schools build on the ideals established during Freedom Summer of 1964. Then, 41 Freedom Schools helped some 2,000 Black children get ready for desegregated schools, to make up for their poorly funded education.

"Because of the struggles, we didn't have decent books," said Unita Blackwell, one of the organizers of the first Freedom Schools. She has served as mayor of Mayersville, Miss., for nearly two decades. "We were after trying to get better schools for our children, and that same thing is happening right now."

Revived in 1993 by the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC), Freedom Schools are operated by community-based sponsors that include churches, schools, and community groups. Now—as in 1964—an intergenerational movement fuels Freedom Schools: College-aged adults, community leaders, and parents all come together to work on behalf of children. They not only teach the children, but also learn from them.

"I'm really excited about the continuation of this educational process," said Blackwell. "Freedom Schools expose children to all kinds of self-development, so they can discover who they are and lead productive lives."

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A Voice for Children

by CDF President Marian Wright Edelman

Redefining the measure of success

At the Greentree Shelter for homeless families in Bethesda, Md., weekly meetings begin with a wish. The families living there take turns standing over a candle, offering up their prayers for basic needs: a home, a job, the strength to make it through another day.

Despite their best efforts, which go well beyond blowing out candles, these parents are having a hard time finding and keeping jobs that they can live on. Their struggle to become self-sufficient and provide for their families is not unique. For every 100 U.S. families with children, 16 live below the federal poverty level—and 11 of these families are headed by someone who is working.

If 10 families are doing better, but five are worse off, we cannot say that in the long run things are going well.

The United States, the richest nation on earth, is seeing more and more of its children at risk from poverty's lifelong consequences, from stunted growth to lowered IQ's, which threaten their chances to succeed and contribute to society. As we chart the growing proportion of working poor families and illustrate how their living conditions differ from those who aren't poor, it is easy to get heartsick. But it is also easy to forget that even one child in poverty is one child too many.

Two years ago this August, the United States enacted a new welfare law. As advocates, we must be careful how we and others measure the results of this "reform." We cannot allow politicians, the press, the public, or ourselves to average out someone's pain with someone else's gains and think we are making progress. If 10 families are doing better, but five are worse off, we cannot say that in the long run things are going well.

Currently, most states are considering it a success if 50 to 65 percent of the people leaving welfare can find work. But many of the jobs they get do not pay wages above the poverty level. Seven out of 10 former welfare recipients who found work are still struggling with problems like child care, transportation, housing, and lack of health care, according to a new 10-state study by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. There are 14.5 million poor children in the United States, and 69 percent of them—more than 10 million—live in working families.

And what about the 35 percent or more former welfare recipients who are without work and without a safety net? Their children are the innocent victims of bureaucratic or political battles among adults. These children end up paying for their parents' inability to find stable jobs with decent wages. The costs they suffer range from homelessness and hunger to family breakdown.

Family care programs like the Greentree Shelter, which are highlighted in this issue's Special Report, offer great potential to heal families during crises. They can even break the cycle of intergenerational dysfunction, including domestic violence, substance abuse, and neglect. Unfortunately, the programs report that their families still face great obstacles in their quest for economic and social stability because of the low-wage jobs they must depend on.

Many families are simply broke, often through no fault of their own and despite a booming U.S. economy. We are afflicted by a poverty of riches that lets children be the poorest group of citizens. Instead of defining success by how wealthy the few at the very top are, we need to measure it by how many we lift out of poverty—especially children. Our nation may be the richest, but it will not be successful until we ensure that we Leave No Child Behind.

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Early findings begin to quantify hardships among families leaving welfare

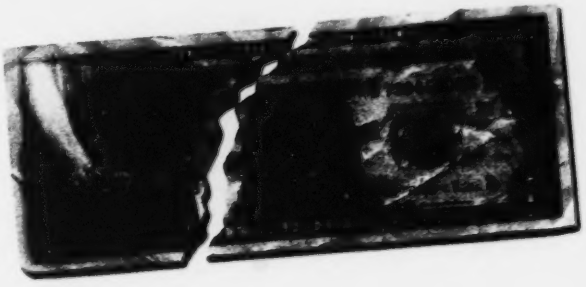
"Maria," 19, a Spanish-speaking mother of asthmatic 1-year-old twins and two older children, receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). She lives in a Massachusetts town without public transportation, bilingual child care, or adult classes for English as a Second Language (ESL).

Her TANF caseworker recently told her that she had to enroll in an approved education program or face losing her benefits. To comply, her twins would have to be placed in child care, but no caregivers had space for her children.

Communication between Maria and her caseworker broke down, in part because all correspondence came to her in English. As a result, the welfare agency sanctioned Maria, reducing her monthly assistance checks. She fell four months behind on her rent, her stress level increased severely, and she was not able to put food on the table for her children.

Maria's family is just one of many families faring poorly because of welfare changes enacted in August 1996. In the wake of nationwide decreases in welfare caseloads, several recent studies conducted by federal and state agencies and nonprofit organizations reveal mixed and often troubling findings on the well-being of families and children losing public assistance. Many families are simply unable to provide shelter, health care, child care, food, and other necessities for their children under the new policies, which require TANF recipients to work in exchange for benefits and which place strict time limits on receiving cash assistance.

In one Tennessee survey of former welfare recipients conducted by Huffman Bedford Consulting Group, some families indicated improvements in their lives since leaving welfare, with answers like, "I'm doing better since I went to work." But others found themselves thrust into economic crises. One parent wrote, "I'm begging and borrowing to feed these kids. I can't buy them clothes or even socks."



"The first evidence of how children are faring under the 1996 welfare changes is starting to come in," said Arloc Sherman, senior program associate in CDF's Family Income Division. "Around the country, we're seeing signs that even though some children and families are better off, others are far worse off," he said.

"We cannot say that the 1996 welfare law is a success when so many children still are not getting a fair start in life. In fact, the evidence so far suggests that children leaving the welfare rolls are slipping into real crises, more so than their peers who are still getting cash assistance."

Losing health care; losing homes

As a result of welfare changes, about 500,000 fewer adults and children received health care through Medicaid in 1996 as compared with 1995, according to the Urban Institute. In South Carolina, 12 percent of jobless families leaving welfare in the second quarter of 1997 reported being sick but unable to obtain medical care. Fewer than half had this same problem while receiving welfare.

In North Carolina, agencies report that about 38,000 children have lost access to Medicaid since their families lost welfare benefits. This occurred even though many were guaranteed continued Medicaid assistance under the law.

Homelessness among children also has been linked to recent state and federal welfare changes. Sociologists at the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse, for example, have found that from 1994 to 1996—in conjunction with changes in the state's welfare services—the number of homeless children sleeping in Salvation Army shelters in La Crosse County rose by 50 percent, whereas the number of homeless men rose just 1 percent. Parents of the homeless children listed sanctions tied to welfare changes as the third leading cause of their homelessness, after death in the family and eviction.

In a study of homeless single mothers in metropolitan Atlanta, families who had lost TANF benefits in the previous 12 months made up 45 percent of the 161 homeless families interviewed. By contrast, in a comparison group of low-income women with housing who had received some TANF benefits during the previous year, just one in five had lost TANF during that time. The findings indicate that families losing TANF in Atlanta are to be found disproportionately among the homeless, Sherman said.

The South Carolina study revealed relatively little homelessness in its sample of families leaving welfare, but it revealed an increase in families approaching homelessness: More than 26 percent of families who left welfare in the first quarter in 1997 were behind in paying their rent, up from 21 percent when they were still on welfare.

Suffering from hunger

The South Carolina survey also revealed that during the same period, 17.5 percent of families leaving welfare reported that they were unable to afford to buy food—twice as many as had that problem while they were receiving welfare.

(See page 16)

Healing the Whole Family

Family care programs help save two generations under one roof

When their father's heavy drinking cost him his janitor's job and the apartment that came with it, three children in Maryland had no other family to turn to for help. Homeless and dependent on their father, the children—a teenage girl and two young boys—might have been separated from him until the crisis subsided.

Although foster care provides an important option for protecting some children in the short run, it often does not ensure them safe, stable homes when they are reunited with their parents. Because child welfare agencies generally do not address the long-term issues that fuel a family's problems, the children can end up going in and out of foster care as crises erupt and ebb. Such a cycle of breakup and reunification takes its toll on children's emotional health and development.

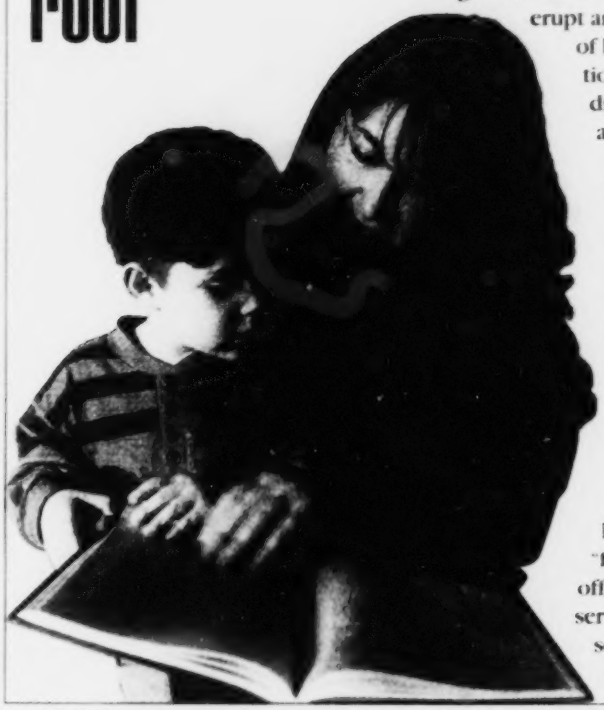


Photo © Human Issues Collaborative

Instead of entering into this cycle, however, these three Maryland children stayed with their father at the Greentree Shelter while they all received the services they needed. Greentree Shelter, run by the Baptist Home for Children and Families in Bethesda, Md., is a "family care" program, offering comprehensive services in a residential setting to parents and children together.

Staff and volunteers helped the children recover from the trauma of homelessness and keep up with their school work. The program also provided health services, child care, and individual assessments to better meet the children's needs.

At the same time, the shelter assisted their father in his efforts to become sober, self-sufficient, and supportive in his parenting. When the father came to trust shelter staff, his defensiveness decreased and he learned how to open up to his children. He acknowledged that they knew about his addiction and allowed them to share in his recovery. He not only grew more nurturing but also acquired a variety of life skills, such as budgeting.

After three months at Greentree Shelter, the father got his job back and moved with his children into transitional housing. He chose to distance himself from drinking buddies to better ensure his sobriety and the stability of his family's new life together.

CDF's look at family care programs

The Greentree Shelter is one of 50 programs from Largo, Fla., to Fairbanks, Alaska, that CDF discusses in *Healing the Whole Family: A Look at Family Care Programs*. The new report presents the results of a CDF study, funded by the Hite Foundation, on the potential of family care for breaking the intergenerational cycle of dysfunction that condemns large numbers of children to unstable homes. The survey examined programs for families facing the problems of substance abuse, domestic violence, teen parenting, and homelessness. These issues, when not

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addressed, often bring children to the door of the child protection system.

In-home or outpatient services can meet some of these families' needs, but for others the severity of their problems requires something more intensive. Family care does not separate these families in times of crisis, but instead houses and treats both generations together. Staff offer a unique combination of services and activities that are not generally associated with traditional social services. These range from close supervision of parent–child interactions to intensive treatment that can give parents the building blocks they need to head safe, strong, and healthy families, as well as to establish productive lives as responsible members of their communities.

Although the ultimate goal is to strengthen families by transforming adult clients into nurturing parents, family care programs do not work to keep the family intact at all costs: the children's safety is always paramount. Careful screening assesses which families would benefit and which are beyond this level of help.

"When the children's safety is assured and when the parents are willing to commit to addressing their problems and to work hard on stabilizing the family, family care can be a catalyst for helping children to thrive," said MaryLee Allen, director of CDF's Child Welfare and Mental Health Division.

Exemplifying caring families

Family care program staff find that many parent clients were never adequately nurtured and do not know how stable, healthy families operate. Often, they do not know how to talk and play with young children, and many lack information about hygiene, discipline, and nutrition. Thus, staff make the programs exemplify caring families.

"We try to live and act as a family," said a staff member at HerStory House, a program in Rutland, Vt., for victims of domestic violence. "Teaching respect for other people is very important."

The residential nature of family care gives staff a unique opportunity to model what it takes to be a nurturing parent and to provide on-the-spot guidance, says *Healing the Whole Family*. Clients who were never hugged or praised as children learn how to hug and praise their own children by watching the staff do it. If a parent goes to slap or spank a child, staff can step in immediately and show parenting methods that are more respectful and more effective.

Photo © Karl Byrand

"We have children come in here who are totally closed and shut down and we watch them start to open up and totally blossom," said a staff member at Riel House, a family care program in Yakima, Wash. "They start to smile, start to talk, start to trust . . . they start to heal."

Sometimes after seeing staff and their peers model appropriate nurturing, a parent may decide that she does not want or is not able to rear her children. When that happens, or when the state must remove children from a parent to protect their safety, the family care program can serve as a safety net during the children's transition to a new, permanent home.

Most of the programs CDF surveyed assess the parent–child relationship at intake, and many provide opportunities for supervised parent–child interaction, parenting education, and family therapy. Family care programs typically offer classes, discussion groups, and peer support sessions to teach parents about children's emotional needs and development—and more. For example, the G.A.P.P. Family Enrichment Center, a substance abuse program in Atlanta,

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Unique benefits of family care

Adults whose childhoods were marked by abuse or family chaos often lack many of the skills that are key to creating a stable and successful life. They may not know how to plan ahead, set goals, or focus on taking the small steps necessary to achieve those goals. They may carry a lifetime of problems that they then can pass on to their children.

Family care can help break the intergenerational cycle of dysfunction as well as provide the following benefits:

- Family care protects children's safety.
- Family care encourages troubled parents (most often mothers) to get help and strengthens their motivation to remain in treatment and use related services because having their children present provides a powerful reminder of why they must succeed.
- Family care strengthens the parent–child relationship.
- Family care helps prepare parents for living independently.

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Healing the Whole Family

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teaches such basics as how to gather the items a child needs for school and how to prepare for a doctor's appointment.

Recreation therapy, rather than being a mere diversion for clients, plays an essential role in many family care programs. Explained a staff member at Warren Village, a program for homeless families in Denver, "A lot of parents just do not know what to do when they're alone with their kids, besides discipline and feeding." For parents recovering from substance abuse, such therapy is particularly important. Many need to learn how to socialize without drugs or alcohol.

Children's services have evolved in intensity as family care programs discovered that simple babysitting will not meet the children's needs. Many programs now offer an individual treatment plan for children, therapeutic child care, after-school programs, and "children of survivors" groups.

Family care programs that offer the richest menu of parent education and children's services appear to work simultaneously on three levels.

- The programs educate, encourage, and support participants in their role as parents.
- The programs consciously focus on parent-child interactions, providing daily and immediate hands-on modeling and guidance to improve their relationship.
- The programs provide treatment and services that help the children cope with and overcome the consequences of their difficult past.

Finding common ground and uncommon solutions

"To get a clear sense of how family programs work and what challenges they face, we surveyed a variety of programs at different stages of development and serving families with different primary needs," said Allen.

Although the programs generally described themselves as serving a specific target group, staff recognize that families who come to family care face a combination of problems. Almost half of the programs surveyed identified themselves as substance abuse programs, which typically offer the broadest range of services to address a family's multiple needs.

Regardless of the target group served, all of the family care programs surveyed by CDF seek to improve the parent-child relationship so as to establish the foundation for lasting family stability. All of the programs, not just those geared to homeless families, help their clients find housing. Likewise, the majority offer

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Learning to mother—and father

Single teen fathers are learning what it takes to be a good parent through Teen Parenting Services (TPS) in Portland, Maine. Other young fathers have teamed up to share parental responsibilities with their babies' mothers: half of the families participating in TPS are headed by two parents.

In CDF's survey, TPS was the only family care program for teen parents that accepts both fathers and mothers. It operates under the philosophy that the father—or another partner—should receive support and guidance as long as he is committed to the family and wants to parent.

The TPS program director noted that young fathers get mixed messages in our culture: "They are blamed for impregnating a girl and leaving, yet families are penalized [by welfare rules, for example] for having males around. And young fathers aren't offered the opportunity to learn how to be a dad and a partner."

Rather than restricting its enrollment to mothers only, TPS has narrowed its application process in another way. At first taking clients on a first-come, first-served basis, the program significantly reduced the number of parents who dropped out when it started screening potential participants. The staff ask current clients to help with the screening, having discovered they are good judges of others' willingness and ability to commit to the program.

Characteristics of quality family care

- Comprehensive services that address the complex needs of parents, children, and the family unit
- Priority attention to children's safety
- Longer treatment timelines and aftercare that allow genuine change and healing to take place, as families uncover and address problems for the first time, practice new behaviors in a supportive setting, and ease back into the community
- An accepting yet demanding treatment environment characterized by clear expectations and standards, as well as an understanding that relapses and setbacks are part of recovery
- Committed, skilled, and flexible staff members who are able to address diverse and emerging needs
- Active peer support among residents while in the program and as they make the transition back into the community

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assessments for substance abuse. Most offer therapy for victims of sexual abuse or domestic violence.

The programs worked under voluntary admissions, though in some cases, the courts have offered the parent the option of enrolling in family care as an alternative to losing custody or serving jailtime.

In most programs, once parents enroll, they must participate in many, if not all, of the services provided. Program staff explained that they want their clients to fully commit to the program. The structure and discipline required to attend a regular schedule of classes and group sessions each day, they say, are good preparation for later employment or education activities, as well as for the demands of child rearing.

Many of the parent clients in family care have failed at earlier treatment attempts. However, none of the programs accept people currently abusing drugs or alcohol—even those that focus on substance abuse require that new clients arrive clean and sober. The programs generally do not admit parents who are actively suicidal or psychotic, or who have been convicted of sexual abuse or a weapons charge.

Healing the Whole Family provides a wide range of examples in which the programs target the specific needs of their clients. For instance, unresolved family issues like childhood sexual abuse, substance abuse, and domestic violence are addressed head on, both to aid in the parent's own recovery and to try to end the intergenerational pattern of family dysfunction.

Many family care adult clients—the majority of whom are women—come from a history of abuse, giving them a badly distorted self-image. Because a stronger self-image can provide a woman with a firmer foundation from which to nurture her children and cope with life's demands, the family care model gives women the opportunity to explore their self-perceptions through such activities as group discussions, written assignments, or art or dance therapy.

Staff also work to help foster the clients' cultural identity. At Women's Way in Honolulu, half of the clients are native Hawaiians. Because extended family is very important in this culture, the staff include extended family members in program activities whenever possible. Other programs also reach out to family members: about three-quarters offered either a group for their clients' partners, or a group for other family members who are not residents of the program.

While in family care, parents face considerable demands to radically alter their lifestyles, which may tax their coping mechanisms to the breaking point. Family care providers recognize that setbacks are a part of recovery. The goal is to empower parents by creating an accepting environment in which they can acknowledge their relapses, discover the triggers, establish safety plans for their children, and learn how to prevent another setback.

Many family care programs also recognize that clients' gains during treatment are more likely to come undone if they return to the same type of living situation they were in before they entered care. To better meet client needs for housing and extended services, more and more family care programs are trying to offer transitional housing for families after they complete intensive treatment.

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Role models by any other name . . .

Depending on the sponsoring agency, they might be called mentors, foster families, resource parents, or care providers. Regardless of their title, these individuals serve as mentors and models for client parents who are working to develop and practice new parenting and life skills.

These role models are the centerpoint of a special type of family care: "shared family care." Client families are carefully matched with host families who help them progress toward independence. Models in these host families must be nonjudgmental, fully committed to helping families with multiple problems, and willing to function as part of the treatment team.

Like other family care programs, shared family care is not appropriate or effective for all families, but it can be one important option in a continuum of services available in a community. A New Life in Philadelphia uses the shared family care model for families recovering from substance abuse, and Therapeutic Foster Families in Chicago uses it for teen parents.

The mission of shared family care is the same as that of other types of family care: to protect children by offering services to both parents and children in a safe and supportive setting. Parents receive not only emotional support and nurturing from the mentors, but also practical help and guidance in parenting, establishing healthy routines, solving day-to-day problems, coping with stress, and forging connections with community resources. They also often participate in treatment, education, or employment activities outside the home.

For organizations interested in starting shared family care in their communities, the National Abandoned Infants Assistance (AIA) Resource Center at the School of Social Welfare at the University of California at Berkeley developed "Shared Family Care Program Guidelines." The center has also developed a mentor training curriculum outline and resource manual.

For more information, contact the AIA Resource Center at 510-643-8383.

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At the time of the survey, just less than half of the programs offered transitional housing. Exodus, a substance abuse treatment program in Compton, Calif., offers the most extensive aftercare services among the programs surveyed. It provides not only transitional housing but also lifetime services that include support groups, individual counseling, vocational and educational classes, and job placement.

What do we know about the success of family care?

There is little doubt in the minds of those most closely involved with family care—program staff and families—that it does make a difference in many participants' lives. Many of its features make the programs more responsive to the needs of parents and children than other service and treatment approaches. Family care's comprehensiveness, however, helps to make evaluation of the programs significantly challenging. Formal systematic evaluations of family care are still evolving, so current data on outcomes are limited. Before the end of 1999, however, several major reviews of family care programs should be completed; other evaluations are underway.

The data already available on the effectiveness of family care are encouraging. The best family care programs seem to be documenting success in alleviating harmful behaviors among the parents they serve, such as alcohol and other drug abuse, repeat pregnancies among young teens, involvement in violent relationships, and involvement with the criminal justice system. There is also scattered evidence of enhanced participation in education and employment and of decreased homelessness. Early studies also show that women participants exhibit increases in self-esteem and decreases in depression and stress levels.

A strong case can be made for investing in programs that make such an impact. Advocating for more support for substance abuse treatment in his testimony before Congress in 1997, Dr. Richard Barth referred to his and a colleague's research on infants born to mothers who abused drugs during pregnancy. In the study, about 1,000 newborns had at least one sibling already in foster care; 25 percent of these babies had three or more siblings in foster care.

Barth, who at the time was the director of the Child Welfare Research Center and Abandoned Infants Assistance Research Center at the University of California at Berkeley, reported on costs associated with these births. He said that if one-third of the 1,000 mothers in the study had successfully engaged in treatment upon the birth of their first child and had no more drug-exposed births, child welfare would have avoided a minimum of 4,000 foster care placement years. In addition, there would have been a savings of at least $40 million for the care of the children.

Although outcome data for children are scarce, programs are getting better at tracking their results. They have found that babies born in family care

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The first steps of family care

"The women and kids were literally at the door," said the director of Middle Way House in Bloomington, Ind., when describing why that domestic violence program evolved from a crisis telephone line into a family care program.

Many family care programs evolved from traditional programs that sought to better meet their clients' needs. Casa Rita in New York started out as a homeless shelter, but because most of the women were coming in with substance abuse problems, it turned itself into a family care program offering substance abuse treatment.

When the staff at a substance abuse program in Miami realized that women were leaving treatment sooner than men because they were worried about their children, they created Families in Transition, which allows women to keep their children with them while they receive treatment. Early in its history, Women's Way in Honolulu enrolled mothers with and without their children. It refocused its efforts after seeing that the mothers who entered the program with a child were three times more likely to complete the program. Teen Parenting Services in Portland, Maine, offered only day services to the teen mothers until staff realized that "success came undone at night."

The origins of the 50 programs CDF surveyed varied. In many cases, though, they were the brainchild of individuals who were frustrated by their community's lack of resources to help vulnerable families.

One woman described the founding of the First Step Home in Cincinnati, saying her Alcoholics Anonymous group was motivated to do something when it discovered that the community had no residential treatment for families. Making matters worse, the treatment program for women without their children had a six-month waiting list.

"All these people [were] motivated for treatment and [had] no place to go!" said the woman. "We had education, economic security, and access to treatment . . . and recovery was difficult. Just imagine what it would be like with no education or income, where you return to a drug-infested neighborhood. It must feel insurmountable!"

In response, she and others in her support group worked with the county and several community groups to develop a successful grant proposal for First Step Home.

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are healthier; developmental scores improve for preschool children during residence; and there seems to be a positive impact on school performance for school-age children. Programs with strong parenting components have also found that as attitudes improve, parent-child attachment increases, and reunification of parents with children in foster care typically occurs.

Why family care?

"Family care can get at the heart of a troubled family's complex needs and set parents on a course toward economic and social stability," said Allen.

In *Healing the Whole Family*, CDF recommends family care as a powerful tool for protecting children and stabilizing families when parents are willing to commit to change and work hard to strengthen their families so that their children can thrive. Of course, children's safety must always be assured.

The introduction to *Healing the Whole Family* sums up the potential of family care programs to meet the critical needs of children: "If more of these programs were available to serve troubled families and if more of the salient characteristics of family care were incorporated in the services and treatment offered by a broad range of systems, our nation would be more likely to one day Leave No Child Behind."

Nevertheless, many family care programs face an enormous shortfall in support unless state and local governments or private entities intervene to provide funding, and unless the federal government will continue its support. Family care programs surveyed by CDF were particularly concerned that managed care and the 1996 changes in the welfare law will hurt their ability to help parents and children.

Managed care poses a threat because it could force family care programs to abandon individual treatment plans, as well as limit the length of treatment, even though research on family care programs has shown that longer stays yield better results.

Healing the Whole Family highlights the challenges of family care; in addition to funding and policy issues, it examines the difficulties inherent in evaluating family care programs and possible ways to overcome these obstacles. It investigates how family care programs work on a daily basis and discusses the core elements that make them different from more traditional treatment programs and social services. The report also provides specific recommendations to promote policies and practices that can ensure strong programs, increase their availability, and implement the core elements of family care in child welfare policy and practice.

Intended as a resource for those individuals who are interested in finding better ways to keep children safe and in permanent homes, *Healing the Whole Family* also reviews the lessons learned from family care that can be used to help strengthen other services for children and families.

To order Healing the Whole Family, *$7.95, contact CDF Fulfillment (see page 13).*

The time is now

CDF makes clear in its new report that it is even more urgent now to step up efforts to heal the whole family than it was when the study began in late 1995. Both welfare and child welfare systems across the country are facing increased pressures to assist families challenged by substance abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, and teen parenting. It is critically important that quality family care programs be available to families who need this level of help. Services and treatment already offered by child welfare and welfare agencies must also incorporate the core elements of family care.

Among families on the welfare rolls, those with problems such as domestic violence, homelessness, and substance abuse generally face the greatest barriers to employment. Nevertheless, welfare agencies must help these families find and retain jobs—not only to avoid penalties under the new federal welfare rules, but also to keep children from ending up at the door of the child welfare system.

Recent changes in child protection and adoption laws mandated by the 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act also dramatize the need for more services and treatment that embody the core elements of family care. The expedited timelines for decision-making in the new law make it imperative that child welfare agencies get services and treatment to families as soon as they enter foster care. In cases where reunification is an appropriate plan, services and treatment must be targeted to the parent as well as the child to improve parenting skills and parent-child interactions. The plan of action must also include follow-up and aftercare as necessary.

Taking advantage of the benefits that family care can provide is not a task for welfare or child welfare agencies alone. It requires concerted action by multiple partners across disciplines and department lines and within communities. "We need to focus efforts on the lessons being learned from family care, to ensure that all children have a safe, stable family life," said MaryLee Allen. "They deserve no less."

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Necessary

News from the Black Community Crusade for Children

Training "outside of the box"

How do you move a bucket of water—*without directly touching it?* And because every drop of water represents a child, you can't risk spilling any. If you do, you must figure out how to recover it to make sure you Leave No Child Behind.

It sounds impossible—but it's not. It's an initiative game that has confronted aspiring Freedom School staffers, challenging their inventiveness and perseverance. Instead of becoming frustrated and failing, they have found that the impossible *is* doable—as long as they work as a team.

This summer, more than 250 young adults, ages 18 through 30, met the demands of a range of such initiative games. It was all part of an annual seven-day institute, sponsored by the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC), which teaches the skills necessary to effectively serve children through Freedom Schools' six- to eight-week summer educational and cultural enrichment program.

The staff discovered what it takes to be a "servant-leader": They explored how to inspire a child's love of learning and how to create an environment in which everyone—adult and child alike—serves as both student and teacher.

"They recognized that working with children is not a job, but a mission," said Julienne Johnson, director of Freedom Schools. "We teach them how to think outside of the box."

Through intensive sessions held during the Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute at the Former Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tenn., the staff also received training in the Freedom School curriculum, which concentrates on reading, social action, and conflict resolution.

BCCC training on how to make books an integral part of a child's life covers more than just the basics, according to Felicia Coward, executive director of the Friends Neighborhood Guild. Her organization sponsors two Freedom Schools in Philadelphia. "My staff was really prepared because of their BCCC training."

Coward said she had hired an assistant principal to instruct her Freedom School interns. He thought it best to present concepts such as how to introduce a new book to children and reinforce what they learned. "He discovered that the interns already knew how to do before-and-after strategies, and they had already come up with ideas on how to handle each book. They were also clear on how to give children opportunities to revisit their work and reflect on what was read," said Coward. "This experienced educator was surprised by what the interns had learned at the BCCC training in such a relatively short time."

In addition to receiving training from BCCC, the young adults who staff Freedom Schools become members of CDF/BCCC's Student Leadership Network for Children (SLNC), which connects them to other leadership development activities and networking opportunities so they can better work with, and advocate for, children.

To learn more about BCCC training for summer and after-school Freedom School programs, call Julienne Johnson at 202-662-3546.

Empowerment across generations

For many, civil rights activist Ella Baker personified the commitment of working together to support the development of strong leaders. Although she died in 1986, her efforts carry on—in part through the Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute, but also because she shared her wisdom with so many people: She gave them the foundation to foster leadership in others while strengthening their own abilities.

The BCCC Ella Baker trainers sustain this tradition in their work with those who are new to the concepts of leadership by service. Said one trainer, Pickett Harrington, "We show [servant-leaders] that we can all learn from each other, even from children because they come with a new type of vision that is worthy of exploring."

This intergenerational model of leadership development empowers everyone to make Freedom Schools as effective as possible. Said Robin Adams, another trainer, "If I am the only person empowered to do something, then I am not a true leader, because what happens when I am gone?"

As Ella Baker proved, a true leader lives on through those she served and made stronger.

Establishing an island of peace

The struggle of trying to serve others and lead them toward a better life can take a heavy toll, causing frustration, even burnout. "To help children who have a lot of needs, you have to be able to sustain your inner strength," said Julienne Johnson, director of Freedom Schools.

Because learning how to take care of yourself can make the difference between failure and success, BCCC Freedom School training focuses on how people can keep themselves centered, creative, and energized.

Participants learn that they can go to their "island of peace" by becoming spiritually grounded through strategies that work regardless of the individual's religious affiliation. BCCC introduces a variety of pathways to peace, such as praying, meditating, and keeping a journal, that Marian David developed. The training also covers how nutrition, exercise, music, art, and movement can help. The trainees then decide on the pathways that work best for them.

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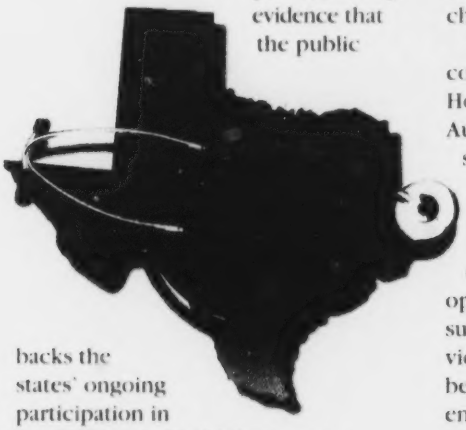
Big support for children's health deep in the heart of Texas

An overwhelming majority of Texans favor using state money to help low-income working families buy health insurance for their children, according to a recent survey sponsored by CDF. The results of the opinion poll provide strong evidence that the public backs the states' ongoing participation in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). More than 1.4 million Texas children are uninsured.



The poll found that 85 percent of those surveyed said they support a children's health insurance plan designed to help a family of three earning up to $27,000 a year purchase insurance at a modest cost. It showed that 77 percent supported using the state budget surplus, revenue from a tobacco settlement, or a combination of the two to finance the state match required under CHIP.

Texas expanded its Medicaid program on July 1 to cover children ages 15 through 18 living in families with incomes at or below the poverty level ($13,650 for a family of three). The expansion should allow 63,000 children to enroll in Medicaid. Legislators will meet in January to decide *if* and *how* to provide health care to the state's more than 1 million remaining uninsured children from low-income families.

The poll of 1,014 adult Texans was conducted June 1–12 by Scripps Howard and the University of Texas at Austin. The Texas Children's Health Insurance Plan Coalition, a group of more than 40 state and local organizations, applauded the poll results and urged state leaders to focus on the following principles in developing a CHIP plan: cover as many uninsured Texas children as possible; provide comprehensive health insurance benefits; and design a family-friendly enrollment process.

For more information about the Texas poll or CHIP developments in other states, contact CDF CHIP Coordinator Jeannette O'Connor, 202-662-3653.

New Web site marks campaign's online debut

The 100% Campaign, a joint project of CDF, Children Now, and The Children's Partnership (see page 11 of July *CDF Reports* for more information), recently launched its Web site.

Visit www.100percentcampaign.org to learn more about the campaign's goals and activities, get up to speed on California's child health programs, and find out how you can get involved.

Re-establishing the value of families in Minnesota

Federal and state tax policies do not meet the needs of today's families, according to a new study from CDF–Minnesota.

The comprehensive review of family-specific tax provisions, *Re-establishing the Value of Families*, also reveals that Minnesota policy makers have failed to take advantage of the state's recent budget surpluses to begin addressing these shortcomings.

Several factors are at work, according to the study. First, most of the tax provisions aimed at helping families with costs related to raising their children fall far short of actual expenses. For example, the federal dependent exemption represents only about one-tenth of the average amount that middle-income families spend to raise a child (for more on child-rearing expenses, see page 17). Similarly, the federal child care credit provides just $480 in benefits for a working family whose child care expenses could be 10 to 20 times that amount.

Second, many family-specific tax benefits lose their financial value over time because they are not adjusted for inflation. Third, many family tax provisions do not recognize the additional expense of raising more than two children.

CDF–Minnesota recommends that to begin addressing these problems, policy makers must create a fully refundable state child credit, adjust current tax provisions to vary according to the number of children in a family, and allow tax credits and deductions to change with inflation.

"Our current tax policies do not reflect the important contribution families make to society," said Jim Koppel, executive

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Save the date

The Sara Lee Foundation, CDF's 25th Anniversary Gala Underwriter, CDF President Marian Wright Edelman, and the CDF Board of Directors invite you to "save the date" for CDF's 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1998.

The gala will begin at 8:30 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall in Washington, D.C.

For more information, call CDF Special Events Director Sharie Brown Wood at 202-628-8787.

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CDF at Work

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director of CDF-Minnesota. "We have the resources in Minnesota, and now is the time to make sure that we truly place our families first."

For a copy of the report, call CDF-Minnesota at 651-227-6121.

CDF develops new Bible concordance

A new resource is now available for faithful advocates hoping to enrich their worship services by highlighting the gifts and needs of children. CDF's Religious Affairs Division has developed a special Bible concordance with selected verses on parents, children, social justice, and other child-oriented topics.

The pocket-sized New Revised Standard Version Bible comes with a topical child advocates' concordance and is bound in genuine leather.

Priced at $25, the Bible with the new concordance is available through CDF Fulfillment (see box this page).

December gathering pays tribute to living legends

More than 300 artists, scholars, writers, elected officials, religious and community leaders, and others will gather Dec. 11–13 at CDF's Former Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tenn., to honor author **Maya Angelou**, historian and author **John Hope Franklin**, and Barnes and Noble CEO **Leonard Riggio**, a member of CDF's Board of Directors.

Dedications of the new Maya Angelou and John Hope Franklin Reading Rooms and the Len and Louise Riggio Library will take place during the weekend, as the Black Community Crusade for Children and friends celebrate art, scholarship, and words.

For more information, call CDF Development Director Pat Appel at 202-662-3525.

CDF 1997 Annual Report

During the past 25 years, CDF has blossomed into a major national child advocacy organization with roots and branches in communities in all 50 states. CDF has never accepted government money, instead relying on the generous and continuing support of foundations, individuals, corporations, and religious and community organizations.

A special 25th anniversary 1997 annual report highlights CDF's outstanding quarter-century of work on behalf of children and young people. It includes CDF's 1997 financial report and a list of donors.

To order the CDF 1997 Annual Report, available this September, contact CDF Fulfillment (see box this page).

CDF Fulfillment ordering information

You may order CDF publications and products by phone, fax, or regular mail. In addition to the stated price, include $2 for shipping and handling of the first item ordered and $1 for each additional item. Sales tax applies only to purchases shipped within the District of Columbia (5.75 percent).

CDF asks that all orders less than $25 be prepaid. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Discounts are available for bulk purchases, and buyers should contact the Director of Fulfillment for availability of quantity discounts. CDF has a no-return policy. Buyers should allow four to six weeks for delivery.

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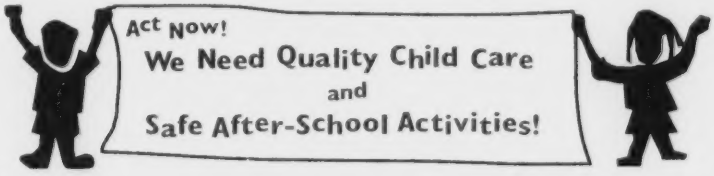

Help Congress "Get the Picture!" about child care

Banners needed!

WHAT: Join thousands of adults and children who are hard at work this summer making sure lawmakers get the picture about the need for quality child care and safe after-school activities.

HOW: Ask children in your community to create hand-drawn banners, posters, and pictures bearing the message: "Act Now! We Need Quality Child Care and Safe After-School Activities!"

WHEN: The Campaign for Child Care NOW! will deliver these drawings to Congress in mid-September, so send as many as you can.

You make them, we'll take them!

WHERE: Mail all drawings to ***Child Care NOW!, 25 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20001***.

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Freedom Schools unlock the doors to children's potential
(Continued from page 2)

Showing strength and love

"Learning doesn't have to be boring or painful—it can be one of the most exciting things you could ever do," said Kelli Sparrow, site coordinator for the Guild's Freedom School at Wannamaker Junior High. That school and Harrison Elementary, both in Philadelphia, donate the use of their classrooms to the Guild for their Freedom Schools.

"We use our strengths to pick up on the strengths of these children," said Sparrow, explaining that her staff use their particular talents and love of learning to motivate the children, as well as search out role models to volunteer at the school. "They don't bring a want, but a need—they *need* to help these children succeed."

By working hard, the staff inspire the children to work hard, especially to invest in themselves and their education. That includes learning the fundamentals of cooperative economics. For example, the children pay for their weekly field trips by working together on fundraisers. During their first week at Sojourner's Freedom School, the children collected more than $500 in pennies. On Tuesday evenings at Sojourner's, the children host "Kids-N-the-Kitchen," helping make all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinners for people in the community.

"The children and the staff aren't the only ones who work hard," said Geddis, adding that the parents must also volunteer their time and energy. "We tell the parents, 'You will work and your child will work for the community.' And everybody accepts that responsibility. The parents are flocking here to enroll their children."

Exhibiting creative conflict resolution

"How you play the game is how you live your life. If you play beautifully, you have a beautiful life. If you play dirty, if you cheat, don't work hard, then your life will not be good either."

Speaking softly, Erik "Chicago" Murray introduced a group of boys from a Philadelphia Freedom School to the principles of "capoeira angola," a martial art that incorporates music and dance. With roots in Africa, capoeira angola evolved in Brazil: Africans enslaved there disguised the form to look like a dance because the slave masters forbade them to practice any kind of defensive art.

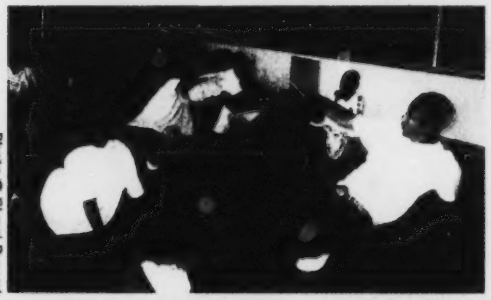

Photo © Sherri Byrand

At a Philadelphia Freedom School, Erik Murray led children through a capoeira angola routine, which is designed to strengthen not only their bodies, but also their minds and spirits.

Murray moved as he spoke, demonstrating slow but powerful movements that at times had him holding his body up by one hand. He highlighted that capoeira angola is now played as a complex game that lets people settle their differences peacefully. "You mock fight: you play, but you don't ever touch the person. To touch the person would be disrespectful," said Murray, who works for the Riley Learning Center in Savannah, which is attached to the Georgia Center for Juvenile Justice. He came to teach the children for a week as part of the Freedom Schools' larger curriculum on conflict resolution.

"We want to show the children that there are more positive ways to resolve conflicts than by fighting or firing a gun," said Richelle Phillips, project director for the Friends Neighborhood Guild's Freedom Schools.

All Freedom School staff receive training in conflict resolution through the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program, a national organization based in New York City. In addition to learning conflict resolution skills, they study how to implement them within the framework of the Freedom School curriculum during a week-long seminar (see page 11).

Photo © Sherri Byrand

Effective servant-leaders, like the young man above, embrace and embody the principles of Freedom Schools—providing a safe, nurturing environment in which children can discover the joys of learning.

Recognizing that parents are the most important partners in their children's education, Freedom Schools also require that parents attend weekly workshops to strengthen their parenting skills. These Freedom School parent programs focus on such topics as children's emotional and developmental needs, positive conflict resolution skills, and other community-selected topics—all to show parents how to help their children succeed.

"The parent component helps mothers and fathers work better with their children, to learn how to praise them,

(See page 15)

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Freedom Schools unlock the doors to children's potential
(Continued from page 14)

empower them. So when the program ends, the Freedom School model continues to go on," said Adams.

Serving the community

While at Freedom School, the children read to senior citizens, lobby policy makers, cultivate community gardens, and more. "They do everything from cleaning up the parks in D.C. to getting a fence built in Dallas so children would not get hurt crossing a railroad track," said Adams.

Photo © Sandy Smith

Last year's Freedom School rally at Philadelphia's city hall culminated in the children participating in a CDF-sponsored Lobby Day at the nation's Capitol.

The list of social action activities depends on the particular Freedom School. Staff and children come up with ideas on how to serve the community, while the children make the final decision on what activities to undertake.

While planning a rally for July 17 at Philadelphia's city hall, the Guild's Freedom School staff knew that they wanted to focus on the national Freedom School issue of halting gun violence, and that they wanted to invite Mayor Edward Rendell. They waited to work out the details with the children.

"We want to expose them to different ways to perform social actions, to the different processes from writing slogans to making phone calls to legislators," said Coward.

The Philadelphia Freedom Schools' social action work earned a community service award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. More important to Coward and her staff, the award brought them to the attention of other local youth centers. "They've asked us to do workshops on social action, and we're looking at conducting joint activities with them," said Coward. For her, the experience helps to prove the point of Freedom Schools. You can reach further than you ever thought possible.

For more information on Freedom Schools' summer and after-school curriculum, contact Julienne Johnson at 202-662-3546.

Freedom Schools catch after-school spirit

This summer, the Rev. Gloria Roach Thomas got her own church in Minnesota, but she spent the last school year officiating a marriage of sorts. As the head of a Project Spirit after-school program and project director for two summer Freedom Schools, she was perfectly situated to link the two.

Merging Freedom Schools' ideals into an already existing after-school program worked extremely well, said Thomas. Her program was one of four pilot sites for the new Freedom School after-school curriculum. "We showed that agencies can get together and work for children so that they have a place to go, so that they are learning, having fun, and being safe."

"When you become part of the class because you know how to read, you start feeling better about yourself. You're getting attention—not because you're doing something bad, but because you're doing something good. So your attitude and your behavior change for the better."

She explained that the after-school program used the books from Freedom Schools not only to foster activities and discussions, but also to improve the children's writing. In addition to putting their feelings about the books into their journals, the children wrote new endings for the plots and even constructed plays based on the stories.

Said Thomas, "The children loved the Freedom School books. They could read them more effectively and resonate more with the stories and pictures. And they got to take them home for their own personal library."

Thomas cited the continuity in staff between the summer Freedom Schools and the pilot after-school program as another great bonus to the children's lives. Five of the servant-leaders who had worked with the children in the summer of 1997 also worked with them during the school year. Three stayed to mentor this summer, and all five will be back again next school year. "In children's lives, things change a lot, so any consistency they can have between the school year and summer is very important, particularly when you have children in foster homes who have been in five homes in the last 10 years, who move a lot, or have had a lot of disappointment," said Thomas.

Parents, foster parents, and the area school system have all expressed their pleasure about the new programming, saying that a lot of the children have improved both their grades and their behavior. Thomas said this progress is easily explained. "When you become part of the class because you know how to read, you start feeling better about yourself. You're getting attention—not because you're doing something bad, but because you're doing something good. So your attitude and your behavior change for the better," said Thomas.

Although the after-school/Freedom School "marriage" is not yet a year old, it's helped produce children who are ready and eager to learn, cooperate, and improve their community.

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Early findings begin to quantify hardships among families leaving welfare

(Continued from page 4)

In Michigan, 27 percent of 67 people who had been cut from welfare said they were having problems providing enough food for their family.

A survey of clients in 60 shelters, food pantries, and similar Catholic relief agencies located in 10 states (California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas) reported greater hardship among families discontinued from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or TANF than among those still on the welfare rolls or never receiving welfare. Among 455 children in the sample, 36 percent of those whose parents recently left welfare were "eating less or skipping meals due to cost" during late 1997. In comparison, 20 percent of those whose families were consistently on AFDC or TANF experienced this problem.

Fewer families and children are now receiving food stamps. New state studies summarized by the National Conference of State Legislatures, National Governors' Association, and American Public Welfare Association revealed that only two-thirds of former welfare recipients in Iowa still received food stamps, despite their low incomes. In Indiana and New Mexico, only one-third received food stamps. Advocates suspect that states are failing to inform many families that they still remain eligible for food stamps after cash assistance ends.

Beyond the TANF cuts, separate food stamps cuts in the 1996 welfare law appear to be taking a heavy toll on immigrants and others. By March 1998, 50 percent of all Los Angeles immigrant households who had experienced food stamp cuts showed severe or moderate hunger, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture study administered by county caseworkers. The number of Los Angeles children living in hungry immigrant households who lost food stamps rose by 9,000 between November 1997 and March 1998.

Greater family disruption, more stress

Agencies also are reporting significant troubles among children affected by changes in welfare policy. A survey conducted at Idaho food banks, Head Start centers, and other human service centers reported: "For low-income families, the more benefits that had been reduced in the last six months, the more problems their children experienced (spending time away from family, fighting within family, troubles with the law, behavior problems, health problems)."

In the greater Philadelphia area, a survey of 73 United Way agencies revealed that up to 75 percent regard government policy changes as having a negative impact on children and families they serve, with most witnessing "escalating fear, anxiety and confusion."

Advocating for policies that help children

As agencies and organizations continue to gather stories and data indicating how the 1996 welfare law is affecting children and families, advocates should keep two goals in mind, said CDF Family Income Division Director Deborah Weinstein. "Advocates should examine how they can help strengthen the positive policies that states and communities are implementing to prevent children from falling through the cracks.

"And, perhaps even more important, advocates must press leaders to improve policies in areas where evidence shows children and families are having a difficult time surviving," said Weinstein. "With the nation's strong economy and TANF caseload declines in most states, now is the time for these communities to invest in the income supports, health care, child care, food assistance, and other help these families need to make their journey from welfare to work a success story."

A Fair Start in life? Study shows wide disparities among states

Considerable inequality exists among states in terms of how they promote children's well-being, according to a recent National Center for Children in Poverty study. The findings highlight the central role that state policy makers play in deciding whether young children will receive a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, and a Safe Start in life.

Map and Track: State Initiatives for Young Children and Families highlights eight states that stand out as leaders when it comes to creating and funding programs that support the well-being of children. They are as follows:

Colorado • Georgia • Minnesota • North Carolina
Ohio • Oregon • Vermont • West Virginia

Seven states stand out because they fund no state initiatives in areas such as comprehensive infant and toddler care, preschools, family support, or parent education, according to the study:

Alabama • Idaho • Mississippi • Nebraska
North Dakota • South Dakota • Wyoming

The study reveals that while some states have strengthened their commitments to comprehensive programs for children, others have made no effort to develop initiatives for young children and families, said Dr. Jane Knitzer, deputy director of the National Center for Children in Poverty. "Only 10 states report special efforts to link welfare reform implementation with programs that protect their youngest citizens," she said. "It is vital for states to put young children's well-being high on the welfare reform agenda."

Copies of Map and Track: State Initiatives for Young Children and Families, *208 pp., are available for $19.95 from the National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia School of Health, 154 Haven Avenue, New York, NY 10032; phone, 212-304-7100; fax, 212-544-4200.*

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Short Takes

Keeping schools safe

Although juvenile crime has been declining since 1993 and schools remain one of the safest places for young people, recent gun violence on school grounds has increased attention on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring. Drug Strategies, a research and policy institute in Washington, D.C., recently issued a guide assessing 84 violence prevention programs commonly used in schools. *Safe Schools, Safe Students: A Guide to Violence Prevention Strategies* also explores policies, procedures, and architectural changes that schools can adopt to promote safe learning environments.

Safe Schools relies on a two-year research effort involving a team of 15 nationally recognized violence prevention experts. It provides a chart-based rating system and a brief description of what specifically does and does not work within the parameters of each rated program. It is designed to assist school administrators, teachers, and child advocates in choosing prevention strategies that best serve students' needs, promote good discipline, and create productive learning environments.

For more information or to order a copy of Safe Schools, Safe Students: A Guide to Violence Prevention Strategies, *write Drug Strategies at 2445 M Street NW, Suite 480, Washington, DC 20037; call 202-663-6090; or fax 202-663-6110.*

Photo © Martha Tabor

"Substantially" helping mothers-to-be

Medicaid-funded prenatal support services can substantially help low-income women avoid poor birth outcomes, according to a study conducted by the MEDTEP Minority Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco. The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research supported the study, *Explaining Variation in Birth Outcomes of Medicaid-Eligible Women with Variation in the Adequacy of Prenatal Support Services*, by Rick K. Homan, Ph.D., and Carol C. Korenbrot, Ph.D.

Women who did not have one support service session per trimester in at least one of three areas (nutrition, psychosocial support, and education) had nearly twice the risk of a poor birth outcome compared with women who did have such support service sessions, according to the report. Poor outcome was measured as low birthweight or pre-term birth.

For more information, call 800-358-9295 or visit www.ahcpr.gov on the Web.

Changes in the composition of family portraits

"Reports of the continuing rapid decline of the traditional American family are greatly exaggerated," says a new report on household and family characteristics released by the Census Bureau.

"The perceived decline of the American family is vanishing and the '90s represents a stabilization period," said co-author Ken Bryson. He reported that although the percentage of married couples with children fell from 50 percent to 37 percent of all families between 1970 and 1990, it has dropped only one percentage point, to 36 percent, since 1990. The study also found that growth in the proportion of one-parent families has slowed as well, according to Lynne Casper, the report's other author. The percentage of one-parent families doubled between 1970 and 1990, from 6 percent to 12 percent of all families. Since 1990, though, it has increased only to 13 percent.

Like many other new Census reports, this study is not available as a book. It is available only at www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html on the Census Bureau Web site. To access and print the basic report and its detailed tables, users must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, a program that is available at www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html for no cost.

Parenting has high price tag

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's annual report on *Expenditures on Children by Families*, it costs an average of $160,000 to raise a child to age 18.

- One-parent households with incomes of less than $35,500 will spend $107,100.
- One-parent households with incomes of $35,500 or more will spend $225,360.
- Two-parent households with incomes of less than $35,500 will spend $112,710.
- Two-parent households with incomes of $35,500 to $59,700 will spend $153,660.
- Two-parent households with incomes more than $59,700 will spend $224,040.

The projected expenditures take into account the costs of housing, food, transportation, clothing, health insurance, child care, education, and miscellaneous expenses such as personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

For a free copy of Expenditures on Children by Families, 1997 Annual Report (Misc. Publication No. 1529-1997), *write the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion at 1120 20th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036. It is also available at www.usda.gov/fcs/cnpp.htm on the Web.*

One step for children

Help children send a clear (and colorful) message about their need for quality child care and safe after-school programs

(see page 13)

CDF Reports

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Of Note

Web site

Join Together, a project of the Boston University School of Public Health that helps communities reduce gun violence and substance abuse, has launched a comprehensive and innovative Internet action center. Its gun violence Web site offers daily news summaries, in-depth feature stories, tips on how to take action to reduce gun violence, and funding information. This online resource also gives survivors of gun violence the chance to share their stories and find support.

Visit Join Together's gun violence Web site at www.jointogether.org/gv or contact Join Together, 441 Stuart Street, 7th Floor, Boston, MA 02116; 617-437-1500.

Video

Hepatitis Foundation International has developed a video to teach teens about high-risk behaviors that can expose them to hepatitis B and C and serious liver damage. *Respect Yourself—Protect Yourself (Teens Talk to Teens About Liver Wellness)* highlights the devastating impact hepatitis and substance abuse can have on adolescents and provides information about preventive measures, including vaccination. The 8.5-minute video, narrated by two teens, is in color animation.

For more information, contact Hepatitis Foundation International, 30 Sunrise Terrace, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009-1423; 973-239-1035; or visit www.HepFI.org on the Web.

Conferences

November 4–7: Healthy Communities • Healthy Youth, St. Paul, Minn., sponsored by the Search Institute.

For more information, write the Search Institute at Thresher Square West, Suite 210, 700 South Third Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415, or visit www.search-institute.org on the Web.

December 3–5: 13th National Training Institute of ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers & Families, Washington, D.C.

For information, contact the conference coordinator at 703-486-0675 or register at www.zerotothree.org on the Web.

Request for materials

The CLAS Early Child Research Institute is seeking "homegrown," culturally sensitive curriculum materials for infants and children up to age 5. It requests in particular materials that can be used for children with and without disabilities, that seem effective across cultural and linguistic backgrounds, or that have been translated into other languages. These can be print-based, video, audiotape, or in other multimedia formats.

CLAS will collect, evaluate, test, and catalog the materials for use in a database, which will be available both in print and on the Internet.

For more information or to submit materials, contact The Council for Exceptional Children, ATTN: Acquisitions Coordinator, 1920 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1589; call 703-264-9488 (voice) or 703-264-9449 (TTY); fax 703-620-2521.

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25 Years
LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND.

CDF Reports

Marian Wright Edelman, President

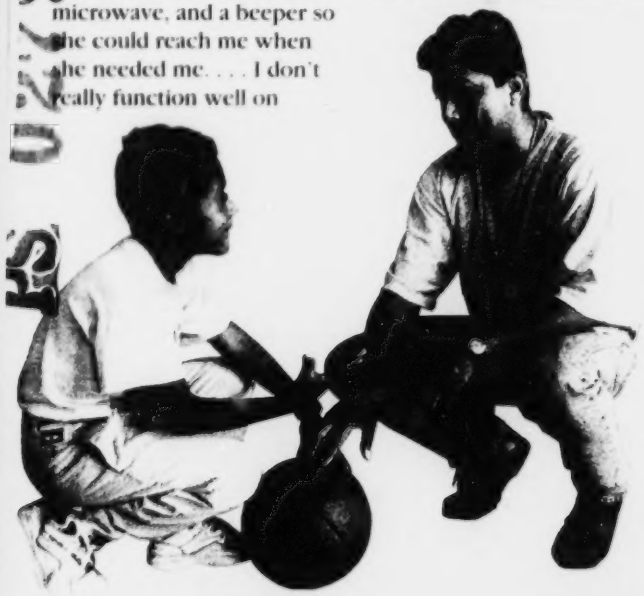
September 1998
Volume 19, Number 9

It's 3 o'clock: New opportunities for children after school

A Missouri mother assigned to work the evening shift arrives on the job each day at 3 p.m., just as her daughter is packing up her school gear and heading for home. There, the 11-year-old girl must spend the afternoon and evening alone.

"I have to leave [her] at home because I can't afford day care," said the mother. I bought a burglar alarm, microwave, and a beeper so she could reach me when she needed me. . . . I don't really function well on the job because I am always worried about her. I call her every 30 minutes until 9 p.m. when it's her bedtime."

Millions of parents from all walks of life—but especially those with low or moderate incomes—experience similar concerns each day, worrying about the well-being and safety of their children before and after school. As students return to classes this fall, an enormous gap still exists between families' needs for after-school care and access to affordable programs that provide structured activities for children once school lets out for the day.



Although community-based organizations such as YMCAs and the Boys and Girls Clubs serve children in thousands of community centers and schools, they cannot fill the gap. This leaves the families of nearly 5 million children struggling to figure out how to keep their children safe and nurtured during non-school hours. In some communities, however, creative efforts are underway to ease the dilemmas faced by local families with children who need school-age care.

Schools, community groups team up in Houston

Crime, poverty, and high levels of child abuse and neglect: All of the above characterize a 20-square-mile expanse of inner-city Houston

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It's 3 o'clock: New opportunities for children after school

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that includes seven public housing projects. Here, it would seem the odds are stacked against any child. But in this downtown area, several school districts and more than a dozen community partners are determined to beat those odds. This fall, the Houston Builds Strong Communities initiative opens the doors of opportunity to up to 25,000 students.

The initiative is one of 99 community-based after-school programs in 36 states that received the first round of grants from 21st Century Community Learning Centers, a Department of Education (DOE) program. Created to provide extended learning opportunities to children in safe environments, the program serves rural and inner-city public schools or consortia of schools. These schools, in turn, collaborate with public and nonprofit agencies and organizations, local businesses, educational entities, and scientific, cultural, and other community institutions.

Because of limited resources, DOE was unable to support about 1,900 other schools and communities that had applied for funding to create or increase after-school programs.

Houston Builds Strong Communities, which received $2.2 million in 1998, provides after-school activities for families living in 12 downtown neighborhoods. "The grant is designed to make sure that we help with student achievement," said Joseph Drayton, Ph.D., director of the Houston initiative. "It's not just academics, though—it's providing safe places for children who'd otherwise be left on their own in the afternoons and evenings."

Drayton said activities offered at the schools will be geared toward promoting academic success, self-esteem, and healthy lifestyles. "Ultimately, we want everything we do to create an environment that keeps kids safe, while focusing on drug abuse prevention, crime and violence prevention, and also helping link children and their parents to any necessary social services."

Said Robert Stonehill, 21st Century Community Learning Centers program director, "Schools are enormous investments of resources on the part of the community. We're looking at how to use these buildings more effectively from 3 o'clock on." But the centers' true potential, according to Stonehill, lies in the ongoing collaboration among school districts and local community partners, which provide financial and in-kind donations, as well as space and equipment, services, and volunteers.

Alliances among a range of partners provide the key ingredient to ensuring the success of 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative in the future, Stonehill said. "The more local commitments there are to these programs, the more chance there is that they will

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Expanding children's horizons after school

Children from the largest public housing complex in Portland, Ore., now have access to a high-tech computer lab after school and during the summer, thanks to a partnership between a corporation, a private association, and a public nonprofit agency.

"This is probably the best thing to happen to our community in years," said Lee Jenkins, director of the University Park Community Center. The center is now home to 15 computers, complete with educational software and a server so users can launch onto the Internet. "The computers are a real asset," said Jenkins. "Everything is state-of-the-art and will give our kids a big jump on learning the latest technology."

Preschoolers on up to teens are using the lab for a broad range of educational activities. The computers even complement the center's more traditional recreational programs: For instance, the children can log on to the computers to investigate the physics of basketball or discover how statistics relate to scoring.

Shortly after the lab at the University Park Community Center opened in late March, a similar one opened at the Salvation Army Ray Robinson Community Center in Sacramento. Both are pilot sites of the Intel/American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Community Technology Center project. The Intel Corporation donated the computers and the Intel Foundation oversaw the creation of the labs with Intel's African American Employee Group, which also helped select the sites.

The Intel Foundation gave a grant to AAAS to design a training program for the centers' staff and volunteer mentors. In addition, AAAS created a curriculum to incorporate the new technology into the centers' larger programming. The computers are also being used for Scholastic Assessment Test preparation and building career skills.

"The computers have given us one more way to make our after-school program a positive force in these children's lives," said Joyce Sellers of the University Park Community Center. "By coming here after school, they have constructive activities to do with their time, so they don't end up doing destructive things to themselves or others."

A mentor program, in which the older teens assist the younger children with the computers, has been particularly successful, said Sellers. "These children are giving back to the community that gave to them. And they keep progressing to another level—they're graduating from high school, they're applying to college. This would not have happened if not for after-school programming and the extended family they found here."

"When the private sector helps communities offer structured activities to children after school, they play an essential role in expanding children's horizons and giving them safe passage toward adulthood," said CDF Violence Prevention Coordinator Kim Wade. "Because children across our country are still being left behind, more corporations must search out ways to help nurture and protect them."

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CDF Reports

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A Voice for Children

by CDF President Marian Wright Edelman

Casting a safety net for our school-age children

Imagine that you're 9 years old, walking home from school with your 7-year-old sister in tow. You have to keep one eye on her and the other one on the lookout for strangers because if anyone follows you into the house, no one's there to protect you.

Now imagine you're the mother of these children. You're trying to put in a good day's work, but inside you're worried sick that someone's going to hurt your babies. And you fret that somehow they'll hurt themselves. Your fears are endless but perfectly justified.

A mother and her children in North Carolina didn't have to imagine this predicament; they lived it. Fortunately, their story has a happy ending. After going through a year of distressing afternoons, their name finally came up on the waiting list for child care subsidies. Now, instead of heading to an empty home and watching TV, the children go to an after-school program. "This is helping to keep them safe, and I feel better about going to work," said the mother.

Unfortunately, nearly 5 million children still leave school for empty homes, while their parents must both work and worry. Lack of affordable after-school care is, at the very least, affecting parents' work productivity, and worse yet, it's jeopardizing the futures and very lives of children. Children in every corner of the country, of every color and class, are left without a safety net when their school doors close. How can this be?

Lack of affordable after-school care is, at the very least, affecting parents' work productivity, and worse yet, it's jeopardizing the futures and very lives of children.

Plain old common sense and study after study tell us that children need supervision and structure to meet their full educational and personal potential, to say "no" to cigarettes, alcohol, and other drugs, and to save themselves from falling victim to violent crimes—or committing such acts.

At last count, however, only 30 out of every 100 schools offer some kind of extended-day program, and in rural areas, only 18 out every 100 schools do. Most of these existing programs are aimed at kindergarten and early elementary school students.

This scarcity of programs is not for lack of need or desire: When the U.S. Department of Education opened up applications for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, nearly 2,000 schools applied so they could partner with the private sector to serve children after school, on the weekends, and during the summer. The 1998 budget of $40 million allowed only one out every 20 of the schools to receive a grant.

Before its final legislative session ends in October, Congress will decide if the 21st Century program will receive more funding, and it will determine how much funding other initiatives for after-school programs receive.

Already, parents, principals, prosecutors, police chiefs, and the general public have spoken out in support. The CDF national headquarters is filling with the messages that children are sending to help Congress "Get the Picture" about their need for child care and after-school programs.

I'm reminded of the Freedom Schools of the Black Community Crusade for Children, where mentors in the after-school and summer programs often catch the attention of the children by asking "Ago?," an Akan word that means, "Are you listening?" The children are supposed to reply in a burst of enthusiasm, "Amay!": Yes! Now, it's the children's turn to ask, "Ago?" Congress should have no choice but to give up partisan politicking and answer, "Amay!"

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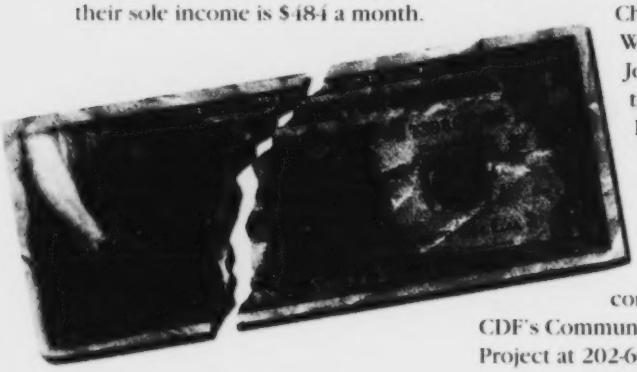
New network coordinates monitoring, organizing, and advocacy on behalf of welfare recipients

Welfare caseloads are declining, but does that mean the 1996 welfare law is a success? Consider the following:

- In Wayne County, W.Va., a father is recovering from a stroke and cannot work. The family used to receive $360 a month in welfare benefits plus $484 in monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for their child who has a disability. Now their sole income is $484 a month.



That's because West Virginia's decision to count SSI as income in determining eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) has resulted in the elimination of benefits to any family receiving SSI. Unable to afford rent, the family has had to move in with a relative.

- In Atlanta, a homeless woman's TANF benefits were stopped when she started a full-time job. She earns just $5.50 an hour, not nearly enough to pay for housing, food, transportation, and child care for her two young children.

Broad-based network examines welfare policies

Similar reports from agencies and organizations that have contact with welfare recipients on a regular basis indicate the 1996 law too often may be jeopardizing the well-being of families. These findings have prompted a group of advocacy organizations, including CDF, to form the National Welfare Monitoring and Advocacy Partnership (NWMAP).

The NWMAP network grew out of collaborative efforts—by CDF, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), and local homeless coalitions—to track connections between the 1996 welfare law and homelessness. Partners include ACORN, Catholic Charities USA, the Center for Community Change, the Institute for Women's Policy Research, Jobs with Justice, the National Employment Law Project, and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. (For a complete and updated list of partners in NWMAP and their contact numbers, call CDF's Community Monitoring Project at 202-662-3639.)

This expanded collaboration of organizers, advocates, researchers, and service providers is working to counter notions that dropping caseloads are proof of the 1996 welfare law's remarkable success. NWMAP plans a multi-year campaign aimed at broadening public understanding of how welfare changes are threatening the well-being of low-income children and families on many fronts.

"What's happening to many welfare recipients as a result of the 1996 law doesn't make sense," said CDF Community Monitoring Coordinator Cheryl Amey. "In many cases, people are not being treated fairly, and there are few real opportunities for parents to move from welfare to a job with which they can feed and shelter their children.

"Welfare reform was not supposed to make people homeless or to make more children hungry," Amey said. "While there is clear public support for a welfare system based on work, the American public also wants to protect children and others in society who need help."

Photo © Sherri Byrand

The National Welfare Monitoring and Advocacy Partnership (NWMAP) is looking beyond welfare reduction numbers to see if new programs are helping parents find work without compromising the health and safety of children.

Assessing the impact on children and parents

As evidence collected from around the country documents how families are affected by new policies, network advocates are urging policy makers, local officials, and the American public to consider the following questions:

- Are more parents working?
- Are working people receiving the supports they need to stay employed?
- Are working parents earning enough to house and feed their children adequately?
- Are people blocked from obtaining skills that will give them a chance to get jobs and become tax-paying citizens?
- Are there provisions for those who will never be able to adequately support themselves?
- Is America protecting its children?

The evidence compiled thus far shows that in many cases, the answer is

(See page 11)

Special Report

Children's Health Insurance Program

CHIPping in to enroll working families

Gail and Don Jones* of Maine have always made do, staying one step ahead of their bills—though sometimes just barely. They both work hard for little pay and no benefits to support themselves and their two children, ages 2 and 4.

Gail cuts hair four days a week. Don has to juggle different jobs in light of Maine's seasonal economy: During the tourist season, he splits his 70-hour work weeks between duties at a hotel and a roadside stand. When the tourists leave for the summer, he cooks at local restaurants as much as possible, rising to the challenge of finding work despite winter cutbacks in employment.

Like many working people, Gail and Don don't receive any compensation beyond their paychecks: no paid sick days, vacation time, or health insurance. Buying health insurance on their own is beyond the Jones's reach because their income is only about $28,000 a year, and they are still paying off hospital bills for their younger child.

Gail saw a newspaper article recently about a new health insurance program that would help children in low-income working families. "I didn't pay much attention, though," said Gail. "The paper didn't say when it was starting up, and I figured we wouldn't be eligible anyway."

Maine's new program, called CubCare, will assist families of four earning up to $30,433. Like the Joneses, these families may never have interacted with government social service agencies. "These parents may dismiss the possibility that their children could qualify. After all, until now, working families whose employers don't provide health insurance have not had any options to help them pay for health care," said CDF President Marian Wright Edelman. "We must get the word out that free or low-cost health insurance is available, and we need to help families enroll. Parents need to hear how insurance and the preventive care that comes with it can keep children healthy and help them reach their full potential."

Committing resources to children

Maine's CubCare is one of many new or proposed efforts across the country that are designed to help uninsured children. They target children whose families have incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford private coverage.

The programs are the result of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which Congress passed and

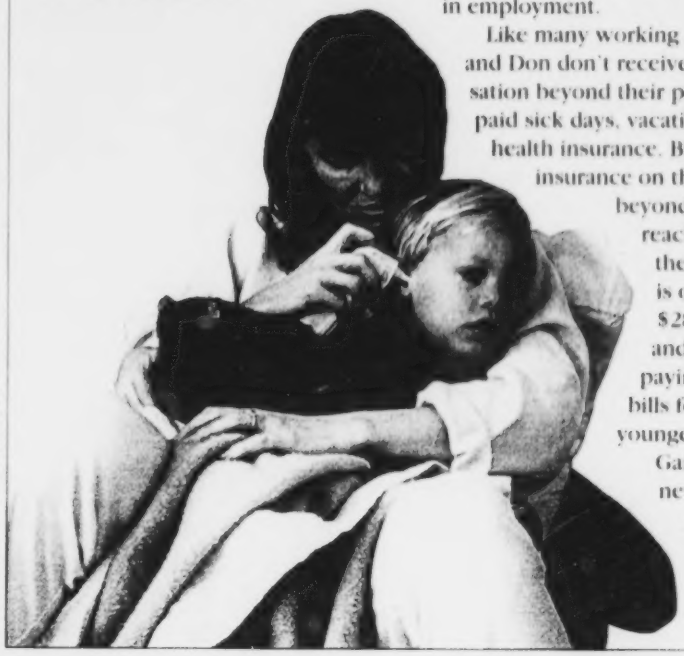


Photo © Human Issues Collaborative

* not their real names

(See page 6)

Children's Health Insurance Program

(Continued from page 5)

President Clinton signed into law one year ago, committing the most significant funding increase for children's health coverage in more than 30 years, when Medicaid was enacted in 1965. CHIP provides $4 billion a year in federal matching funds to states so they can offer health insurance to some 5 million uninsured children.

As of late August, 29 states and Puerto Rico had already received a go-ahead for their proposed programs, and 17 other states and the District of Columbia had submitted their applications for approval. Although the benefits and terms of eligibility for CHIP vary from state to state, most programs will insure children through age 18, and most will cover checkups, prescriptions, immunizations, and more.

Acting fast to ensure children's well-being

"The faster we get families enrolled, the more we can protect children from having to suffer from preventable illnesses," said Gregg Haifley, acting director of CDF's Health Division.

"The majority of uninsured children who have asthma never get a checkup during the year. Many end up having to go into the hospital for acute attacks that probably wouldn't have happened if they had been under a doctor's care," said Haifley, referring to the report "Children Without Health Insurance" in the 1992 book, *The Future of Children*, published by The Center for the Future of Children.

The same report found that for every three uninsured children who have recurring ear infections, one does not get medical treatment. Without proper care, many may end up having permanent hearing loss.

Children without insurance also face other threats to their well-being. "Children cannot learn effectively unless they are healthy," said Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley in supporting the Department of Education's proposed campaign for reaching out to low-income students and their families to sign them up for CHIP.

Research conducted by the state of Florida found that uninsured children are more likely to be absent from school. In Pennsylvania, a health insurance company found that nearly one in five uninsured children had untreated vision problems. Without eyeglasses, they're more likely to fall behind in school because they cannot see the blackboard.

"Without insurance, these children may not have access to quality health care, and as a result, do not have a fair chance to succeed in school," said Riley.

Children who lose out on education can also lose out on a chance at a healthy, long life, according to findings in the comprehensive annual report just released by the Department of Health and Human Services. *Health, United States, 1998* reports that life expectancy is tied to education status: Those who are less educated tend to die younger from all major causes of death than those who have more education.

A *Journal of the American Medical Association* study published in June confirmed what many child advocates have long believed: Extending health insurance to children has a major positive impact in terms of increasing their access to care and reducing their unmet health needs.

"To give children a fair chance in life, we have to ensure that they have access to health insurance and all the benefits that come from consistent care," said Jeannette O'Connor, coordinator for CDF's Children's Health Insurance Implementation Project. "Our first step must be to sign them up for CHIP."

Photo © Human Issues Collaborative

Enrolling children in CHIP does more than cover the expense of treating accidents or disease. The regular checkups now available can save children from suffering needlessly from preventable illnesses.

Reaching out to educate and enroll

"CHIP provides a great opportunity to begin addressing the health needs of children in working families, but only

(See page 8)

Who qualifies for CHIP?

In most states, uninsured children 18 years old and younger whose parents earn up to $32,900 a year (for a family of four) are eligible for the new Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

For children age 18 and younger who went without health insurance in 1996:*

- Two out of three had a parent who worked full-time, all year long.
- For every 10, nearly six lived in two-parent families.
- For every 10, five were White, two were Black, and three were Hispanic.

These children live in almost every community and their parents are people we all know, working in restaurants, child care centers, and more—places where employers typically don't offer health insurance for dependents.

*According to the March 1997 *Current Population Study*

Could your child be eligible for health insurance?

Maximum income eligibility under proposed or existing health insurance programs for children

State	Eligibility level (percent of poverty)	Maximum income for eligibility: Family of 3 Yearly	Family of 3 Monthly	Family of 4 Yearly	Family of 4 Monthly
Alabama†	200%	$27,300	$2,275	$32,900	$2,742
Alaska†	200	34,140	2,845	41,140	3,428
Arizona†✦	150	20,475	1,706	24,675	2,056
Arkansas	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
California	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Colorado	185	25,253	2,104	30,433	2,536
Connecticut	300	40,950	3,413	49,350	4,113
Delaware†	185	25,253	2,104	30,433	2,536
District of Columbia†	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Florida	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Georgia†	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Hawaii◆	185	29,045	2,420	35,002	2,917
Idaho	150	20,475	1,706	24,675	2,056
Illinois	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Indiana	150	20,475	1,706	24,675	2,056
Iowa†	185	25,253	2,104	30,433	2,536
Kansas†	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Kentucky†	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Louisiana†●	133	18,155	1,513	21,879	1,823
Maine†	185	25,253	2,104	30,433	2,536
Maryland†	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Massachusetts	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Michigan†	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Minnesota*?	280	38,220	3,185	46,060	3,838
Mississippi*■	185	25,253	2,104	30,433	2,536
Missouri	300	40,950	3,413	49,350	4,113
Montana†	150	20,475	1,706	24,675	2,056
Nebraska†	185	25,253	2,104	30,433	2,536
Nevada†	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
New Hampshire	300	40,950	3,413	49,350	4,113
New Jersey	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
New Mexico	235	32,078	2,673	38,658	3,221
New York▲	222	30,303	2,525	36,519	3,043
North Carolina†	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
North Dakota*	133	18,155	1,513	21,879	1,823
Ohio	150	20,475	1,706	24,675	2,056
Oklahoma	◆185	25,253	2,104	30,433	2,536
Oregon	170	25,205	1,934	27,965	2,330
Pennsylvania	235	32,078	2,673	38,658	3,221
Rhode Island	250	34,125	2,844	41,125	3,427
South Carolina	150	20,475	1,706	24,675	2,056
South Dakota	133	18,155	1,513	21,879	1,823
Tennessee	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Texas*	185	25,253	2,104	30,433	2,536
Utah†	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
Vermont†	300	40,950	3,413	49,350	4,113
Virginia†	185	25,253	2,104	30,433	2,536
Washington	200	27,300	2,275	32,900	2,742
West Virginia	150	20,475	1,706	24,675	2,056
Wisconsin	185	25,253	2,104	30,433	2,536
Wyoming*	133	18,155	1,513	21,879	1,823

† Not all states' proposed health programs have begun. Some states' program start dates are tentative, pending federal approval. Check with your state's CHIP contact person to confirm the start date of your state's program.

◆ For first year, 150 percent. For second year, 175 percent. For third year and thereafter, 200 percent.

✦ Hawaii's Medicaid program formerly covered children under 300 percent of poverty, but effective January 1, 1998, for new applicants, income eligibility was reduced to 100 percent for children under age 14, 133 percent for children under age 6, and 185 percent for pregnant women and children under age 1.

● A Louisiana task force is working on an additional program to cover children above 133 percent, possibly extending coverage to as high as 200 percent of poverty.

■ A Mississippi task force is working on an additional program to cover children up to 200 percent of poverty.

▲ On January 1, 1999, income eligibility will increase to 230 percent. On July 1, 2000, income eligibility will increase to 250 percent.

* Eligibility listed is for children from birth to age 1. For other age groups, eligibility varies from 133 percent to 100 percent of poverty.

Note: Factors other than family income, such as the child's age, will determine your child's eligibility for health insurance. This chart should be used only as a guide for possible eligibility. Access www.childrensdefense.org on the Web for more information, or call 1-800-CDF-1200 to find out the phone number for your state's information line. Source for yearly income by poverty level: *1998 Poverty Guidelines* (Federal Register 2/24/98). Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

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Children's Health Insurance Program

(Continued from page 6)

if every eligible child signs up and their parents know what benefits are available," said Edelman.

Child advocates and others can take on any number of roles in the CHIP outreach campaign (see box below). Every state's campaign to educate and enroll families is different, with some showing more promise than others. To help simplify the enrollment process, the majority of states have shortened their applications. Also, 30 states are allowing families to mail in their applications, and others will allow them to apply over the phone.

The following strategies show promise for effectively reaching parents:

- Maine hospitals are sending an application to all uninsured children they have treated in the last two years.
- Colorado is training staff at community outreach sites to enroll families on an Internet database that can quickly screen them for eligibility.
- Ohio, Indiana, and Nevada are localizing efforts so that counties can create their own outreach strategies to best suit local demographics and needs.
- Indiana has enlisted all state agencies to disseminate information; for example, the Department of Revenue includes a flyer with its mailings, and CHIP literature is distributed at the state fair and county fairs.
- Nevada is creating public-private partnerships and reaching out to parents through religious organizations and other groups. The state is providing information in both English and Spanish, and it has enlisted local dairies to advertise "Nevada Check Up" on milk cartons that will go out to about 1.5 million households.

"Reaching out to some 5 million children and enrolling them in CHIP presents a massive undertaking, especially considering that the number of children without private insurance grows by nearly 3,000 children every day," said O'Connor. "But that high number should not intimidate us, it should motivate us to action. By helping them get enrolled, we can give them the healthy start they need."

Photo © Human Issues Collaborative

Although health benefits vary in each state, most of the new insurance programs cover children through age 18. CHIP cushions working families from the current trend of businesses cutting support for dependent coverage: Since 1989, children have been losing private health insurance at twice the rate of adults.

What can you do?

- Become familiar with what is available in your state; eligibility varies from state to state and according to family size and income.
- Circulate the flyer on the next page, with the phone numbers for each state's CHIP program (or print out your state's flyer from the CDF Web page).
  - Work with local schools, churches, and temples to get the flyer into parents' hands.
  - Post the flyer at supermarkets, Laundromats, restaurants, hospitals, health clinics, and other community organizations.
- Create a volunteer network through your workplace, congregation, or other organization to help families fill out applications.
- Record feedback on how easy or difficult it was for families to apply, noting any possible solutions to the stumbling blocks.
- Work with CDF and local children's and health groups to advocate at the state level for improvements to CHIP: Educate state lawmakers about the benefits of covering children for a year at a time and providing shorter application forms, mail-in applications, and extended state office hours so families can get information after work.
- Visit www.childrensdefense.org on the Web if you want more information on your state's program.
- If you do not have Internet access or if you are interested in recording feedback or working on the state level to improve CHIP, call 1-800-CDF-1200 and press 2 for the Health Division. Leave a message with your name, organization, address, phone number, e-mail, and what information you would like to receive.

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RAISING A HEALTHY CHILD DOESN'T HAVE TO COST YOU AN ARM AND A LEG

Free or low-cost health insurance for children is now available to working families.

◆ ◆ ◆

Benefits in the new children's health insurance programs vary from state to state, but most:

- cover children through age 18
- have a simple and easy application process
- cover everything from checkups to prescriptions, from broken bones to booster shots.

In most states, a family of four earning up to $32,900 can still qualify for children's health benefits!

Find out today what your state has to offer your child!

Visit www.childrensdefense.org on the Web or call the number for your state's children's health insurance program (see reverse side of this flyer).

Children's Defense Fund®

Dialing for details on children's health insurance

Children of working parents may qualify for free or low-cost health insurance through new state programs. Most programs are already up and running, though a few are still pending. Some states have expanded their Medicaid programs, while others have added a new, separate state children's health insurance program (CHIP) or are using a combination of Medicaid and CHIP. Call today to find out what is available in your state.

Note: All 800, 888, and 877 numbers are toll-free.

State	Program (and future start date where applicable)	Phone number
Alabama	ALL Kids	(888) 373-KIDS
	Medicaid	(800) 362-1504
Alaska	Medicaid	(907) 561-2171
		will refer you to local #
Arizona	KidsCare (will start enrolling in October 1998)	(877) 764-KIDS
Arkansas	ARKids First (Medicaid expansion)	(888) 474-8275
California	Healthy Families/Medi-Cal	(888) 747-1222
Colorado	CHP+	(303) 692-2960
	Medicaid	(800) 221-3943
Connecticut	HUSKY Plan	(877) CT-HUSKY
		(800) 656-6684
Delaware	Medicaid	(800) 372-2022
	Delaware Healthy Children (January 1999)	Number soon available
District of Columbia	Healthy DC Kids (Fall 1998)	Number soon available
Florida	Florida KidCare	(888) FLA-KIDS
Georgia	GA Peach Care for Kids	(877) GA-PEACH
	Medicaid	To be determined
Hawaii	Medicaid	Number soon available
Idaho	Medicaid	(800) 926-2588
Illinois	KidCare	(800) 323-GROW
Indiana	Hoosier Healthwise	(800) 889-9949
Iowa	Hawk-I (December - Phase II)	(800) 369-2229
Kansas	Medicaid	(800) 766-9012
	HealthWave (November 1, 1998)	Number soon available
Kentucky	Medicaid	(800) 635-2570
		will refer you to local #
	KCHIP (start date not yet established)	Number soon available
Louisiana	LACHIP (November 1, 1998)	(504) 342-3891
		will refer you to local #
Maine	Cub Care/Medicaid	(800) 452-1926
		will refer you to local #
Maryland	Maryland's Children's Health Program	(800) 456-8900
Massachusetts	MassHealth	(800) 841-2900
Michigan	MIChild	(888) 988-6300
Minnesota	MinnesotaCare	(800) 657-3672
		will refer you to local #
Mississippi	Mississippi Children's Health Insurance Program	(800) 948-3050
Missouri	MC+	(888) 275-5908
		will refer you to local #
Montana	Medicaid	(800) 362-8312
		will refer you to local #
Nebraska	Kids Connection	(877) NEB-KIDS
		(877) 632-5437
Nevada	Medicaid	(702) 687-5000
		will refer you to local #
	Nevada Check Up	(800) 360-6044
New Hampshire	Healthy Kids—Gold	(800) 852-3345
	Healthy Kids—Silver (January 1999)	Number soon available
New Jersey	NJ KidCare	(800) 701-0710
		will refer you to local #
New Mexico	Medicaid	(888) 997-2583
		will refer you to local #
New York	Child Health Plus	(800) 698-4543
	Medicaid	(800) 522-5006
	Child Health Plus / Medicaid (NYC)	(212) 788-4321
North Carolina	NC Health Choice	(800) 367-2229
North Dakota	Medicaid	(800) 755-2604
	Healthy Steps (start date not yet established)	Number soon available
Ohio	Healthy Start	(800) 324-8680
Oklahoma	SoonerCare	(800) 987-7767
		will refer you to local #
Oregon	Oregon Health Plan	(800) 359-9517
Pennsylvania	PA Children's Health Insurance Program	(800) 986-KIDS
Rhode Island	RIteCare	(800) 346-1004
South Carolina	Partners for Healthy Children	(888) 549-0820
South Dakota	Medicaid expansion	(800) 452-7691
		will refer you to local #
Tennessee	TennCare	(800) 669-1851
Texas	Texas Children's Health Insurance Program	(800) 252-9330
		will refer you to local #
Utah	Medicaid	(800) 662-9651
		will refer you to local #
	Utah Children's Health Insurance Program	(888) 222-2542
		will refer you to local #
Vermont	Dr. Dynasaur and the Vermont Health Access Plan	(800) 250-8427
Virginia	Children's Health Insurance Program	(877) VA-CMSIP
	(start date not yet established)	(877) 822-6747
	Medicaid	(804) 786-7933
		will refer you to local #
Washington	Medicaid	(800) 562-3022
West Virginia	Children's Health Insurance Program	(888) WV-FAMILY
	(start date not yet established for phase II)	
Wisconsin	Medicaid	(800) 362-3002
	BadgerCare	Number soon available
Wyoming	Medicaid	(307) 777-7921
		will refer you to local #

For more information on how to spread the word about children's health insurance programs and help enroll working families, access www.childrensdefense.org on the Web or call 1-800-CDF-1200.

(Updated 9/9/98)

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New network coordinates monitoring, organizing, and advocacy on behalf of welfare recipients
(Continued from page 4)

no, said Amey. (See "CDF, New Studies Look at Status of Former Welfare Recipients," page 4, April/May *CDF Reports*; "Studies Show Many Parents Fail to Find Jobs After Welfare," page 8, July *CDF Reports*; "Early Findings Begin to Quantify Hardships Among Families Leaving Welfare," page 4, August *CDF Reports*.)

The new welfare monitoring project is gauging the realities of the welfare law by looking beyond caseload reduction numbers to determine if new programs are succeeding. Success in this context, said Amey, means helping people find work without compromising the health and safety of families and children.

Reporting the full story from the front lines

"The media reports on welfare reform have really overlooked a large body of research and the experience of people who are on the front lines working with families," said Barbara Duffield of NCH. "The average American reading the newspaper has the impression that everything is going well with welfare reform, but that is not the case for many families who are losing benefits."

To get the full story, Duffield helped interview families across the country about their experiences with welfare reform. The results are part of a new report on which NCH and CDF collaborated. Slated for release this month, the report builds on an issue brief the agencies released in mid-August to help grassroots advocates mark the welfare law's second anniversary, which took place Aug. 22.

"For the people working with families, the report validates their experiences—it tells them, 'You aren't alone, there is cause for concern,'" said Duffield. "It says to the public, 'Wait a minute, what you've been hearing and reading is not the full story; there's a lot more happening out here. There's cause to doubt what's been put out about welfare reform so far.'"

The report investigates how individuals such as Patricia of Albuquerque, N.M., have been affected by changes in the welfare law. A mother of four children ages 5 through 11, Patricia moved her family into her parents' house after her son was permanently paralyzed in a drive-by shooting. Her welfare benefits were terminated, however, because New Mexico's new welfare rules require that the entire household income be counted to determine benefits.

Because her parents were unable to support five additional family members without additional resources, and because she cannot work because of the constant care her son requires, Patricia and her children were forced to move into a one-bedroom apartment. The loss of benefits created an even greater loss for Patricia's son: A homebuilder's association had helped to make his room at his grandparents' house wheelchair accessible. When Patricia told him they had to move, he asked, "Why can't we just take my room?"

In addition to providing in-depth case studies, the new report by CDF and NCH advises advocates on how to improve programs and policy. While CDF and NCH finalized the report, other NWMAP members undertook a National Day of Action on Aug. 22 to further raise awareness, stimulate discussion, and mobilize resources around the topic of welfare reform.

The NWMAP network held rallies, paired local leaders with low-income families on Walk-A-Mile projects, educated local legislators about the financial difficulties facing working-poor families, sponsored forums featuring former welfare recipients who talked about supports needed to succeed without public aid, conducted letter-writing campaigns, and participated in other activities.

For more information, or for a copy of the new report developed by CDF and NCH on the impact of the 1996 welfare law, call LaVerne Ross of CDF at 202-662-3639.

Public education campaign looks to the future

The National Welfare Monitoring and Advocacy Project (NWMAP) has targeted the many concerns caused by recent welfare policy changes. Throughout the rest of 1998, it will focus primarily on homelessness.

For example, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), a NWMAP partner, recently launched a public information campaign to highlight the problems of homeless children. The group has created the poster at right in both print and electronic formats. In addition to placing the poster on its own Web site (http://nch.ari.net), NCH enlarged the poster's audience by arranging to have it displayed on search engine Web sites such as Yahoo (www.yahoo.com).

The new welfare NWMAP network is coordinating events in conjunction with the November elections, the Dec. 10 golden anniversary of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the ninth annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on Dec. 21.

For more information on these events, call CDF's Community Monitoring Coordinator Cheryl Amey at 202-662-3556.

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Necessary

News from the Black Community Crusade for Children

Revival time—For faith, resolve, and the sake of children

Defining child advocacy as "a necessary journey through dangerous territory," the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss advised, "You can't do it if you go around responsibility, around challenges, around confrontation, and around all the burdens of leadership."

Speaking to a throng of fellow preachers and faith-based advocates for children, Moss acknowledged how comforting it can be to go only to places where you are greeted by "a chorus of hallelujahs." He then stressed, "If we are to build the kind of community where children cannot only survive but arrive at their highest potential, we have to move out of our comfort zones. And if we don't move out, somebody ought to call us out . . . and if nobody should call us out, something or somebody ought to push us out."

Photo © Roland L. Freeman, from *Rekindling the Spirit*

"If we are to be advocates for children, we must go through difficult, dangerous, sometimes cruel, brutal, death-dealing circumstances," said the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss at the 1998 Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry. He recommended advocates use this prayer so they don't have to walk alone: "Dear Lord, lead me, guide me . . . order my steps."

In introducing Moss at the fourth annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry, CDF President Marian Wright Edelman described him as being, for more than three decades, "God's instrument for salvation, liberation, and reconciliation." His morning devotional messages provided several of many highlights during five days of spiritual leadership, fellowship, and training.

Calling the Institute "a revival time," the Rev. Samuel Ross-Lee, one of the attendees, said, "It was very motivating and inspirational . . . it helps you have a stronger resolve to do what needs to be done for children."

Developed and sponsored each year by the CDF Religious Affairs Division and coordinated through a partnership with the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC), the Institute reaches out to all Christian congregations, giving participants an opportunity to acquire new skills, models, and strategies to improve children's lives.

This year, nearly 20 workshops covered a range of topics, from preparing youth for leadership roles to preaching justice issues at a level above the ethical and the legal. Several sessions focused on how faith communities can best provide child care and after-school programs.

In addition, the Institute continued its Great Preacher Series, with moving sermons every evening from a variety of Christian perspectives. Nearly 300 ministers and advocates from 30 states and Washington, D.C., attended the Institute, which was held at the Former Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tenn., as in previous years.

The Rev. Annette Williams, a first-time participant at the Institute, reported that Father Walter J. Burghardt's sermon particularly inspired her for its message that we must love all children, not just our own. She said, "It was wonderful to be in a multicultural, multiracial worship experience with people from different denominations. I discovered a real sense of community; I realized that I am not isolated."

"It was wonderful to be in a multicultural, multiracial worship experience with people from different denominations. I discovered a real sense of community; I realized that I am not isolated."

A child therapist and Baptist youth minister in New Orleans, Williams said, "The Institute confirmed my belief that we should not focus on the deficits a child has or faces. Instead, we need to tap into children's potential, discover how to build on their assets and those in their community."

Among the workshops reinforcing this belief was one that investigated the Search Institute's asset-building framework. It delineates 40 developmental assets such as doing service for others and having role models, a sense of purpose, and a positive view of the future. "I learned that if children have at least 10 out of 40 of these assets, then they will be more likely to succeed no matter what type of environment they are in," said Williams, who plans to incorporate this information to build on the assets of the children with whom she works, and to help create new ones as necessary.

Ross-Lee, of the Gill Creek Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., said the Institute motivated him to make his church's early child development center better able "to give children an excitement and thirst for learning." He said,

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Revival time—For faith, resolve, and the sake of children

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"People automatically turn to us for services, but we can't allow their dependence on us to allow us to settle for just providing multi-staff babysitting. We must give a high-quality education to our preschool children to get them on the right track." That commitment is all the more important, he said, considering that his home state of South Carolina ranks 48th out of 50 for education.

Throughout the five days of the Institute, participants learned how they can best help children succeed and live up to their responsibilities. The Rev. Prathia Hall—minister, educator, and chair of the BCCC's Black Church Initiative—reminded everyone that they will be held accountable for their actions. In giving the first sermon in the Great Preachers Series, she said, "In our work and in our lives, we will either stand for children and stand with children, or we will have no place in the realm of God."

CDF is now accepting registrations for the 1999 Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry, to be held on July 19–23 at the Former Alex Haley Farm. Those who register before November 15 will qualify for the early bird rate of $175 per person. After that date, the cost will be $200. For more information, call Pam Cary of the CDF Religious Affairs Division at 202-662-3589.

One Church . . . Ten Families project moves into five cities

Baltimore, Detroit, Houston, Manassas, Va., and Washington, D.C., will serve as the pilot sites of the One Church . . . Ten Families project, using churches and the judiciary system to reach out to children and families in need.

Developed by the Judges' Leadership Council (JLC) of the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC), the program will establish working partnerships between juvenile and family court judges and faith communities. The end result will be a comprehensive child-centered, family-focused system to which judges can turn as an alternative to juvenile detention.

JLC members, who make up a nationwide network of African American juvenile and family court judges, are partnering with churches in the five pilot cities to implement the initiative. In Baltimore, Master Gregory Sampson will refer children to the New Psalmist Baptist Church. In Detroit, Judge Frances Pitts will work with the Hartford Memorial Baptist Church and in Houston, Judge Veronica Morgan-Price will work with Wheeler Baptist Church. In Manassas, Judge Janice Brice Wellington is exploring a partnership with several churches. In Washington, D.C., Judge Arthur Burnett Sr. will implement the project with Renaissance and Shiloh Baptist Churches. Training for the pilot sites starts this fall.

Implementation of the concept for the five pilot sites began in late July at a JLC organizational meeting held during the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry. Those in attendance received an overview of the One Church . . . Ten Families project. They also discussed the strategy on which it is based—the Youth and Families Restoration Model, which works to help children and families by providing an array of services, from mentoring to parental training. Also at the meeting, Marian McCann Hickson, executive vice president of Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and the Rev. Alfred Terrell, director of In Agape Family Life Center in Newport News, Va., gave presentations about their successes and challenges in creating programs similar to the One Church . . . Ten Families project.

Ring in the new year with a new calendar celebrating children!

The CDF 1999 Calendar is now available, making a perfect holiday gift idea.

Twelve wonderful images by photographer Nita Winter create a yearlong celebration of children.

The 1999 edition also continues the CDF tradition of providing steps you can take to help America's children.

The calendar, published in cooperation with Pomegranate Calendars & Books, is $12.95. To order, contact CDF Fulfillment (see page 14 of this issue).

New board member, staff epitomize innovation and expertise

Praising **Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell** for his business acumen in revitalizing Houston's inner city, *Newsweek* in 1997 voted him one of the "100 people to watch as America prepares to pass through the gate to the next millennium." This past August, Caldwell became CDF's newest board member.

Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell

Under his leadership, the Windsor Village Church Family and the Pyramid Community Development Corporation recently developed the Power Center. This comprehensive complex addresses the needs of the southwest Houston community, providing—among other services—The Imani School, a bank, a business technology center, a clinic, business suites, support groups, and the third largest banquet facility in the city.

In addition, Caldwell and the Pyramid Community Residential Corporation, along with the Kingdom Builders' Prayer Institute, recently broke ground for a 234-acre planned community. The Corinthian Pointe includes 440 homes, an eight-acre commercial tract, a 20-acre park, a 17-acre community garden, The Prayer Center, an assisted-living community, a wellness center, and a family-life center.

Caldwell is senior pastor of the Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston. Since his appointment there in 1982, membership has grown from 25 to more than 10,700. He also serves as senior pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church in downtown Houston, where attendance has increased more than 200-fold since his appointment in fall 1992.

Named by *Texas Monthly* in 1996 as one of the 20 most influential Texans, Caldwell is the author of the upcoming book *The Gospel of Success* from Simon & Schuster.

As CDF's new director of communications, veteran strategist **Charles Fulwood** will craft and implement goal-oriented, proactive communications programs.

Most recently, Fulwood served as president of his own multi-media consulting firm, Geneva Communications. He worked with a broad range of clients, from the Center for Democratic Renewal and the City of Atlanta to CBS News, ABC's "Primetime Live," and the United Nations.

Charles Fulwood

As director of communications for the Natural Resources Defense Council from 1991 to 1997, Fulwood overhauled, streamlined, and modernized the environmental group's communications operation. Among his most notable innovations was the creation of the international ECO-Awards, a global contest for excellence in environmental communications.

Between 1984 and 1989, Fulwood was director of communications and campaign director for Amnesty International USA. Previously, he served in senior communications positions for the Voter Education Project, Inc., and the National Black United Fund, Inc.

Barbara Williams has joined CDF as director of human resources. She most recently served as director of human resources and training for the Freedom Valley Girl Scout Council in Pennsylvania.

Barbara Williams

Williams has more than 12 years experience in human resources management. In addition, she spent several years as a consultant and trainer for nonprofit organizations, where she developed and presented workshops on cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity and team building.

She has a bachelor's degree in Human Services and Administration from Antioch University, completed graduate courses in Human Resources and Change Management at the University of Pennsylvania, and holds certificates in Training Theory and Practice from the National Training Laboratory Institute, as well as Management of Cultural Diversity from Temple University.

Williams also is a founding member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women and co-chairs its public relations committee.

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CDF Fulfillment ordering information

You can order CDF publications and products by phone, fax, regular mail, or e-mail. All orders less than $25 must be prepaid. CDF accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Bulk purchases can qualify for discounts: Contact the Director of Fulfillment.

Buyers should include $2 for shipping and handling of the first item ordered and $1 for each additional item. Sales tax applies only to purchases shipped within the District of Columbia (5.75 percent). Please allow four to six weeks for delivery. CDF has a no-return policy.

To place your order, contact CDF Fulfillment:

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Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-662-3652
Fax: 202-628-8333
E-Mail: cdforders@childrensdefense.org

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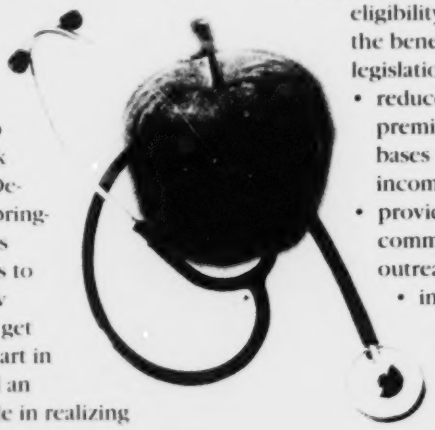
Ensuring healthy starts in the Big Apple and beyond

While announcing that more New York state families now qualify for children's health insurance, Gov. George E. Pataki expressed his gratitude to CDF–New York: "I want to personally thank the Children's Defense Fund for bringing many groups together with us to ensure that New York's children get the healthiest start in life. CDF played an instrumental role in realizing the goal."



CDF–New York spearheaded the statewide push toward universal health care coverage for New York state's children, working with hundreds of organizations and individuals under the umbrella of Child Health Now!. The historic initiative will provide complete health insurance coverage to an estimated 680,000 uninsured children by expanding New York state's two existing health insurance programs for children: Medicaid and Child Health Plus.

In addition to making more children and families eligible for coverage, New York is also increasing the benefits to include dental and vision care, speech and hearing services, durable medical equipment, and expanded mental health services.

Along with expanding income eligibility levels and increasing the benefits package, the legislation

- reduces the costs of premiums to families and bases payment on their income levels;
- provides funding for community-based outreach and enrollment;
- increases income eligibility levels for Medicaid;
- creates a single application process for Medicaid and Child Health Plus.

An important new feature is "presumptive eligibility." Now, instead of having to wait until Medicaid processes their applications, children can access health care services immediately as long as they appear to be eligible. Also, children will not be automatically eliminated from the Medicaid program when their family income rises: They will have up to 12 months of continuous coverage as a transitional period.

For more about CHIP, see the Special Report on page 5 of this issue.

New initiative focuses on CHIP of southwest Ohio

A grant from the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati will help give CHIP a shot in the arm in three counties in southwest Ohio. The CDF–Greater Cincinnati Project is using the funding for outreach, monitoring and assessment, and coordinating CHIP activities in those counties.

"This grant gives us a great opportunity to make sure that 100 percent of the children who are eligible for CHIP get enrolled," said Eileen Cooper-Reed, an advocate in the CDF–Greater Cincinnati office.

The new initiative will take a three-pronged approach: monitoring and evaluating the Hamilton County Medicaid Outreach Plan, providing coordination of multi-county cooperation on outreach activities, and educating the public and policy makers about the importance of CHIP.

CDF–Greater Cincinnati has hired Tracey Craig as the child health advocate for the new initiative. Funding covers the next year and a half, with the possibility of a one-year extension, depending on the progress made.

For more information, contact CDF–Greater Cincinnati at 513-751-2332; fax, 513-751-2003.

Celebrate children this holiday season!

Share your concerns for children's well-being through the whimsical artistry of Melanie Hope Greenberg.

Choose from four colorful designs, each carrying a different message of hope for children.

Cards are 4.25 inches by 5 inches, and envelopes are included.

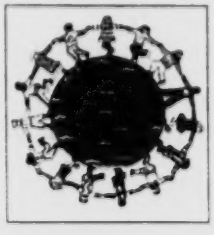
Packs of 12 cards in the same design are $15. For postage and handling, add 50¢ for each pack of cards requested.

To order, contact CDF Fulfillment (see page 14 of this issue for details).

Leave No Child Behind.

Peace
Justice
Tolerance
Joy
Love

Stand For Children during this holiday season and all year long.



Peace on Earth Good Will to All!

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It's 3 o'clock: New opportunities for children after school
(Continued from page 2)

become self-sufficient after three years," said Stonehill, noting that federal funding lasts for three years only.

New York City's Beacon Schools grow by leaps and bounds

Collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors have made it possible for numerous communities to significantly expand their after-school programming. Since the fall of 1997, the number of Beacon Schools serving New York City children has doubled from 40 to 80. Funded primarily through the city's Department of Youth and Community Development, Beacon Schools are school-based community centers managed by nonprofit community-based organizations that collaborate with school boards, principals, teachers, parents, school administrators, youths, church leaders, private and city service providers, and other groups.

These partnerships allow Beacon Schools not only to provide safe havens for children who would otherwise be unsupervised during non-school hours, but also to offer children, young people, and families a wide range of opportunities. For example, Beacon Schools provide sports and recreational activities; educational enrichment; arts and cultural opportunities; leadership development; and entrepreneurial programs. They are open after school, in the evenings, and on weekends, for an average of 10 to 12 hours a day.

In a recent survey, 62 percent of students interviewed indicated that they found Beacon Schools "extremely helpful" in terms of their own progress in school. Many also said the Beacon School experience helped them avoid drugs and stay out of trouble.

"Children and young people in Beacon Schools have a safe place to be and engage in positive interactions with adults and other young people," said Michele Cahill, director of the Fund for the City of New York's Youth Development Institute, which helps manage the Beacon Schools initiative.

In a recent survey, 62 percent of students interviewed indicated that they found Beacon Schools "extremely helpful" in terms of their own progress in school. Many also said the Beacon School experience helped them avoid drugs and stay out of trouble.

The remarkable success Beacon Schools have had in giving school-age children safe and nurturing environments has not gone unnoticed. Four other cities—Denver, Minneapolis, Oakland, Calif., and Savannah, Ga.—are developing Beacon Schools in several of their communities through grants from the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. Each community will receive $1 million over three years to design the programs and to generate local public funding and private support from foundations and other organizations.

This past spring, billionaire philanthropist and Open Society Institute founder George Soros made a significant contribution to the after-school cause in New York. Soros will donate matching funds to initiate new programs throughout the city.

The heightened attention being paid to expanding school-age care in dozens of America's communities is promising, said CDF Violence Prevention Coordinator Kim Wade, but it's not far reaching enough. Even though private funders, such as the Michigan-based Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, already have pledged to spend up to $55 million to provide training and evaluation of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative over the next five years, Congress has not yet made a commitment to expand the program to serve all of the nearly 5 million children currently left home alone. As this issue went to press, lawmakers were debating whether to support President Clinton's request for a $160 million increase for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program in Fiscal Year 1999.

"There's still an overwhelming need for community-based programs that keep children safe and involved in

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Resources for advocates

The following organizations provide valuable information about after-school programs and school-age care:

National Institute for Out-of-School Time
c/o Center for Research on Women
Wellesley College
106 Central Street
Wellesley, MA 02481
781-283-2547
http://www.wellesley.edu/WCW/CRW/SAC

National School-Age Care Alliance
Executive Director: Linda Sisson
1137 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02124
617-298-5012
http://www.nsaca.org

School Age Notes
P.O. Box 40205
Nashville, TN 37204
615-242-8464
http://www.schoolagenotes.com

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It's 3 o'clock: New opportunities for children after school

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positive activities when they're not in school," said Wade.

"After-school initiatives like the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and Beacon Schools stand out because they build so effectively on local partnerships and a combination of private and public sector support," said Wade. "Communities should follow their lead by reaching out to a variety of partners—community-based organizations, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions, and others—to continue addressing the need for positive after-school options."

For more information about the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, contact DOE's Office of Educational Research and Improvement, 555 New Jersey Ave. NW, Suite 504, Washington, DC 20208-5644; fax 202-219-2198. For more information about Beacon Schools, contact the Fund for the City of New York's Youth Development Institute, 212-925-6675. For more information and data on child care and after-school programs in your state, order Child Care Challenges, *$1.95 for each state report, from CDF Fulfillment (see page 14).*

Keeping children safe online

Many children returning to school this fall will log on to the Internet in class and at home. How can you help ensure they have safe, educational, and rewarding experiences while online?

Get involved in America Links Up—a national campaign connecting parents, teachers, community leaders, advocates, and others working to help children safely benefit from the Internet.

To learn more about the campaign or to order materials, visit www.americalinksup.org on the Web or call Rica Guarnieri at 202-828-9732.

Express your concern for children at the ballot box!

America's children can't cast votes at election time, so it's up to you to do it for them. Don't let their needs go unanswered: register today!

If you are not registered to vote, you can now do so without leaving your home or office: A new Web site lets you fill out a "cyber" form. Sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), MCI Telecommunications Corp., and Rock the Vote, the site also includes links to sites listing dates for primaries and registration deadlines. Other links take you to facts on candidates and elected officials, including their voting records and issue positions, as well as the status of congressional bills and more.

Visit the site at netvote98.mci.com on the Internet. If you register to vote, you will receive a voter card within two or three weeks. It will be pre-addressed to your local election office; the Web site even pre-pays your postage! All you have to do is sign the card and mail it—then get out to vote.

Preventing violence in schools

The following resources promote a broader understanding of school-based violence and offer guidance on developing violence prevention projects:

- **School House Hype: School Shootings and the Real Risks Kids Face in America**. This Justice Policy Institute report analyzes the media's impact on public perception of school-based violence. The report also outlines several effective crime prevention strategies, including expanding after-school programs. For a copy of the report, call 202-678-9282 or visit www.cjcj.org on the Web.
- **Safe Schools, Safe Students: A Guide to Violence Prevention Strategies** identifies and evaluates promising approaches to violence prevention in schools. For a copy of the guide, developed by Drug Strategies, call 202-663-6090 or visit www.drugstrategies.com on the Web.
- **Creating Safe Schools: A Resource Collection for Planning and Action**, from the U.S. Department of Education Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, provides materials on such topics as safe schools planning, weapons in schools, and school bullying and victimization. To order, call 1-800-624-0100.
- **Center for the Prevention of School Violence** focuses on ensuring that schools are safe and secure and provides information, program assistance, and research about school violence prevention. Call the center at 1-800-299-6054 or visit www.ncsu.edu/cpsv on the Web.

For more information, call CDF Violence Prevention Coordinator Kim Wade at 202-628-8787.

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One step for children

Spread the word to working families who might qualify for the Children's Health Insurance Program: Post copies of the flyer in this issue.

CDF Reports

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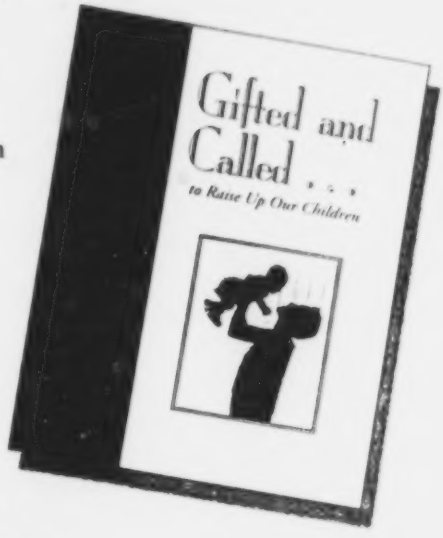
Speak out and act faithfully on behalf of children and their families

On Oct. 16–18, unite with thousands of congregations of various faith traditions and other religious organizations across the country for CDF's Seventh Annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths. This year's activities will focus on the need for safe, nurturing child care for *all* children, whether in homes, in centers, or in after-school and summer programs.



The 1998 Children's Sabbaths Resource Manual, *Gifted and Called to Raise Up Our Children*, can help you plan and promote your Children's Sabbath. It includes practical activities for adults and children; worship services for Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and other faith traditions; lesson plans; and resources for follow-up activities. Cost is $6.00 plus postage and handling, with discounts available for bulk orders. (For ordering information, see CDF Fulfillment on page 14.)

Apply the power of prayer, outreach, and advocacy for children in your neighborhood and beyond.

Children's Defense Fund
25 Years
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CDF Reports

Marian Wright Edelman,
President

October 1998
Volume 19, Number 10

Lowest American gun death toll for children since 1989

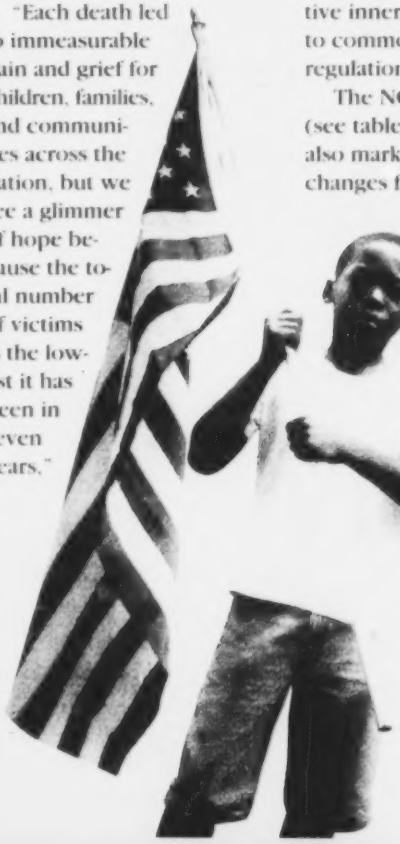
Gunfire killed 4,643 U.S. infants, children, and teens in 1996, according to new, unpublished data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

"Each death led to immeasurable pain and grief for children, families, and communities across the nation, but we see a glimmer of hope because the total number of victims is the lowest it has been in seven years," said CDF President Marian Wright Edelman.

A number of factors are working together to help save children from dying by gunfire. They range from innovative and effective inner-city programs to common-sense gun regulations.

The NCHS 1996 data (see tables on pp. 15–17) also mark other positive changes for U.S. children:

- For the first time since 1990, handguns and other firearms killed fewer than 5,000 children.
- Total child gun deaths decreased 12 percent from the previous year.
- For the second year in a row, the number of children killed by firearms declined for all four causes of death—homicide, suicide, accidents, and unknown causes.
- Firearm deaths were down for both White and Black children.
- The number of children killed in accidental shootings reached the lowest level in years.



Multiple, inventive efforts save children

"The hot spot cities like Los Angeles and Boston that drive the national statistics are taking action to turn things around and keep children safe and alive," said Kim Wade, CDF's violence prevention coordinator.

Dr. Garen Wintemute, director of the Violence Prevention Research Program at the University of California at Davis, confirmed that new urban initiatives play an important role. "Half of the nation's homicides occur in 60 cities. Many of these have undertaken very intensive violence prevention programs that are successful—

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Lowest American gun death toll for children since 1989

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and their success is being reflected in the national stats."

Los Angeles's efforts to reduce gun violence resulted in the number of homicides dropping by 29.3 percent in the first six months of 1998 (as compared with the first six months of 1997), reported Wintemute. But in the surrounding area of Los Angeles County, which did not dedicate equivalent resources to gun violence prevention, homicide decreased only 1.6 percent for that same period.

Collaborative efforts in Boston among the clergy, law enforcement, and school officials, he reported, reduced the number of juveniles killed by guns from 10 a year to none at all for more than a year and a half until December 1997.

"In addition, law enforcement agencies have made gun crimes a top priority, investigating and prosecuting them much more aggressively," said Wintemute.

"There has been a multiplicity of efforts going on, with churches, parents, police, and schools getting involved to reduce violence," said Geoffrey Canada, CEO of the Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families in New York City, which provide comprehensive services and safe havens for children in Harlem. "One important step has been the reduction in the number of handguns available."

Between 1993 and 1996, companies in California that dominate the market for Saturday Night Specials (cheap handguns that are easy to obtain and conceal) had declines in sales of 75 percent, according to Wintemute. He had high praise for a Clinton Administration initiative that has made it tougher to qualify for gun dealer licenses. "The number of gun dealers has shrunk by at least two-thirds, and it particularly affected the 'kitchen-table dealers' [dealers without stores whose more informal operations made it easier for them to engage in illegal gun traffic]."

Heading in right direction, but not there yet

"Unfortunately, the news for children's safety is not all good—more than 4,600 children still died from gunfire in 1996. That's almost one child every two hours," said Kim Wade, CDF's violence prevention coordinator.

Some died at the hands of parents or other adults, some at the hands of their peers, some by accident, some by their own hand. Among the dead listed in the 1996 statistics: A nameless boy, his age somewhere between 5 and 9, who committed suicide with a handgun in Arizona. The 134 children murdered before their 10th birthday. The 2,702 murdered before they ever got through their second decade of life.

"Americans take more precautions to protect children from aspirins than from guns," said Robert Turner, Indianapolis's deputy chief of police. One of the speakers at a September Congressional Black Caucus Foundation conference on violence in schools, he added, "Children use guns to kill because children have guns that kill. This is so simple, it's stupid."

In California, where more than 6,72 children died from gunfire—14 percent of the U.S. total—there are eight times more gun dealers than McDonald's restaurants, according to spring 1997 statistics from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and McDonald's Corporate Headquarters. "Despite all the recent inroads in urban California

(See page 13)

Decreases run nearly across the board, but not uniformly

In 1996, the number of Black children accidentally killed by guns *increased* by 12 percent. This tragic reversal on the previous year's improvements, however, stands out as the only exception to an otherwise across-the-board decrease in child gun deaths. Closer examination shows that the improvements are not uniform, but vary

By cause of death

- Homicides and accidents decreased by almost 13 percent.
- Suicides decreased by almost 10 percent.
- Unknown deaths—firearm deaths in which the motive was not determined—declined 20 percent.

By race or ethnicity

- White children experienced the biggest drops in gun deaths in 1996. The 1996 gun death toll for White children declined by 15 percent over 1995; for Black children, it declined almost 9 percent.
- The number of White children murdered by firearms dropped 17 percent; for Black children, it decreased 10 percent.
- The number of White children killed accidentally by gunfire dropped 21 percent; for Black children, it increased 12 percent.

1995 marked major drops in firearm deaths of Black children, especially for homicides and accidents. Between 1993 and 1995, the number of Black children murdered by gunfire dropped 18 percent; for White children, the number increased slightly. The number of White children killed accidentally dropped 6 percent. For Black children, it dropped almost 39 percent.

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A Voice for Children

by CDF President Marian Wright Edelman

Use the power of the polls to put children first

Voter turnout reached "an all-time low" in the 1996 presidential elections, according to a recent report by the U.S. Census Bureau. Nearly one-third of those surveyed said they didn't vote either because they disliked the candidates or because they just weren't interested.

Those of us who care about children cannot let this continue. We must motivate the disenfranchised, the discouraged, and the disillusioned to use the power of the polls. If we don't, we'll be dishonoring all those who sacrificed their lives and freedom for our right to vote, and we'll be gambling away our children's futures.

Just 35 years ago, the United States witnessed the beatings and murders of Black citizens and those who tried to help them claim their right to vote. Their courage and commitment brought down racist barriers to the ballot box.

Sadly, though, of all the adults born and raised since those struggles, less than half voted in the 1996 presidential election. For young Black Americans, the percentage was even lower, ranging from 28 to 44 percent depending on the age category.

Before 1972, you had to be 21 to vote if you lived in one of 46 states. America's youth saw a bitter irony in this restriction, because a male, no matter his home state, could be drafted to die in the Vietnam War at age 18.

Today, another bitter irony exists. Although all 18 to 21 year olds can now vote, in 1996 less than one in three did. For Black males in that age range, only one in five reported voting.

A similar pattern exists among women voters. Although suffragettes persevered for a half-century so women could finally become full citizens in 1920, only 55.5 percent of eligible women turned out to vote in 1996. That's down 12 percent from 1964.

This Nov. 3, citizens must demand by ballot box that our country put *children* first, before any political agenda.

Fortunately, in 1996, those women and Black citizens who did vote helped make a crucial difference in getting candidates to look more at issues important to children and families. Although child advocates achieved a remarkable victory through the Children's Health Insurance Program, we still need to do more.

This Nov. 3, citizens must demand by ballot box that our country put *children* first, before any political agenda. We must decry partisan politicking and demand investment in children in this post-Cold War era of economic prosperity.

Child advocates must call policy makers on the carpet for putting the wants of the privileged and the powerful before the desperate needs of children, who remain the poorest group of Americans. We must be the voice and the vote of *all* children, but especially those who go to bed hungry, wake up homeless, cope with illness or disability, or struggle in the midst of violent neighborhoods and homes.

We know that government alone is not the solution to all social ills and that parents are the most important people in their children's lives. At the same time, we recognize that parents alone cannot keep children safe and healthy. They need caring communities and citizens who are obligated to help those less fortunate—especially children whose parents work every day but still cannot make ends meet or afford decent child care or health care.

To spare children from suffering, Americans must provide more than prayer, personal service, and charity. We must live up to our civic duties and work for just policies for all children. We must vote, rally others to participate in the election process, and hold those in power accountable for their actions.

Teen birth rate continues steady decline

U.S. teen birth rates decreased for the fifth year in a row and reached the lowest level since 1988, according to newly released data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The figures show that 491,577 babies were born to teens ages 15–19 in 1996, for an overall rate of 54.4 births per 1,000 teens.

In 1995, that rate was 56.8 per 1,000 and in 1991, 62.1.

For specific racial and ethnic categories, the rates per 1,000 females were 48.1 for White teens, 91.4 for Black teens, 73.9 for Native American teens, and 24.6 for those of Asian/Pacific Islander descent.

Teen birth rates in 1996 dropped for all racial and Hispanic subgroups except for mothers of Cuban descent, with particularly large reductions for non-Hispanic Black teens.

NCHS reported that 130,596 babies were born to Black teens in 1996. That's a 5 percent decrease from 1995 and the lowest rate reported for Black teens since 1980, when NCHS began reporting teen births according to the race of mother.

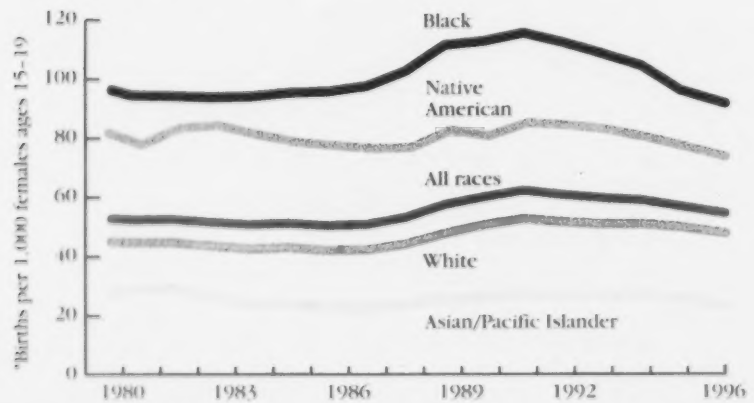
"The steady decline in teen birth rates during the 1990s is an encouraging trend; particularly remarkable is the drop in the rate for Black teens," said Susanne Martinez, CDF's Director of Programs and Policy. "But there's still much room for improvement," she said, noting that the current overall teen birth rate is still higher than the 1986 rate of 50.2 births per 1,000 teens.

The District of Columbia, followed by Mississippi, Arkansas, Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico had the highest teen birth rates in 1996, at 70 or more per 1,000. New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Minnesota, Massachusetts, and North Dakota had the lowest 1996 teen birth rates, at less than 35 per 1,000.

For more information about teen birth rates, contact CDF's Health Division at 202-662-3551 or at cdfhealth@childrensdefense.org by e-mail.

Figure 2.1 **Teen Births**

Trends in teen birth rates,* by race of mother, 1980–1996



Source: National Center for Health Statistics

Table 2.1 **Teen Births**

Teen birth rates by state, 1998

	Teen birth rate*
Alabama	69.2
Alaska	46.4
Arizona	73.9
Arkansas	75.4
California	62.6
Colorado	49.5
Connecticut	37.4
Delaware	56.9
District of Columbia	102.1
Florida	58.9
Georgia	68.2
Hawaii	48.1
Idaho	47.2
Illinois	57.1
Indiana	56.1
Iowa	37.8
Kansas	49.6
Kentucky	61.5
Louisiana	66.7
Maine	31.4
Maryland	46.1
Massachusetts	32.2
Michigan	46.5
Minnesota	32.1
Mississippi	75.5
Missouri	53.7
Montana	38.6
Nebraska	38.7
Nevada	69.6
New Hampshire	28.6
New Jersey	35.4
New Mexico	70.9
New York	41.8
North Carolina	63.5
North Dakota	32.3
Ohio	50.4
Oklahoma	63.4
Oregon	50.8
Pennsylvania	39.3
Rhode Island	42.5
South Carolina	62.9
South Dakota	39.5
Tennessee	66.1
Texas	73.5
Utah	42.8
Vermont	30.1
Virginia	45.5
Washington	45.0
West Virginia	50.3
Wisconsin	36.8
Wyoming	44.0
United States	**54.4**

*Births per 1,000 females ages 15–19.
Source: National Center for Health Statistics

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Special Report

Maternal and infant health

New data show prenatal, postdelivery progress

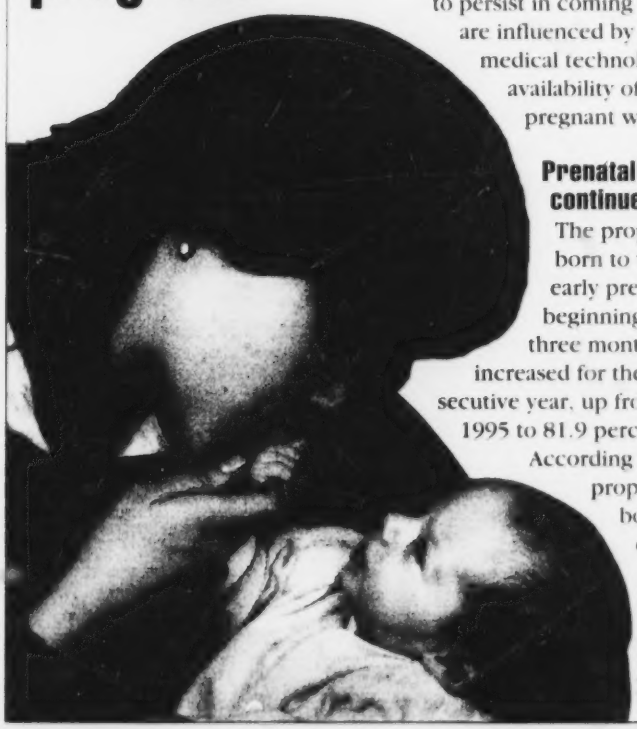

Photo © Lloyd Wolf

A greater proportion of babies were born to women receiving early prenatal care and fewer infants died before their first birthday, according to new vital statistics data for 1996 released late in the summer by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

But the percentage of infants born at low birthweight (5 pounds, 8 ounces, or less) continues to increase, NCHS reports.

The 1996 figures reflect several longstanding trends that are expected to persist in coming years and that are influenced by advances in medical technology and greater availability of health care for pregnant women.

Prenatal care rate continues its upswing

The proportion of babies born to women receiving early prenatal care (care beginning in the first three months of pregnancy) increased for the seventh consecutive year, up from 81.3 percent in 1995 to 81.9 percent.

According to NCHS, the proportion of babies born to mothers accessing early prenatal care has risen slowly and steadily by more than 8 percent since 1989, when the rate was 75.5 percent, after essentially stagnating throughout the 1980s.

Additionally, the percentage of babies born to women with late (in the last three months of pregnancy) or no prenatal care dropped from 4.2 percent in 1995 to 4.0 percent in 1996. This figure has fallen by more than one-third since 1989, when it spiked at 6.4 percent after slowly rising during the 1980s.

Although progress in prenatal care affected babies in all racial and ethnic groups during the 1990s, groups with the lowest rates in 1993 (the earliest year for which comparable Hispanic origin data is available) showed the greatest improvements in 1996. The rate for Hispanics of Central and South American descent receiving early prenatal care rose 6.3 percentage points from 1993 to 1996. The rate for Hispanics of Mexican descent increased 5.9 percentage points in that same period. Rates for non-Hispanic Blacks and Puerto Ricans also showed notable improvements, rising 5.4 percentage points and 5.0 percentage points, respectively. Non-Hispanic Whites, who had the second-highest rate in 1993, showed the second-smallest increase at 1.8 percentage points. The rate for Hispanics of Cuban origin was the highest in 1993, but rose the least, 0.3 percentage points, between 1993 and 1996.

This year marks the first time that NCHS provided state-by-state birth

(See page 7)

Babies born to mothers receiving early prenatal care and babies born with low birthweights, by race of mother and by state, 1996

	Early prenatal care*				Low birthweight**			
	All races	White	Black	Hispanic†	All races	White	Black	Hispanic†
Alabama	81.6%	87.8%	68.8%	62.1%	9.3%	7.2%	13.6%	6.4%
Alaska	80.8	83.2	81.8	75.5	5.5	5.0	12.1	6.0
Arizona	73.7	74.8	69.6	62.5	6.7	6.5	12.4	6.3
Arkansas	74.8	78.7	61.0	56.9	8.5	7.0	13.6	5.9
California	80.6	80.4	78.8	75.5	6.1	5.5	11.8	5.4
Colorado	81.4	81.9	75.5	66.8	8.8	8.5	15.0	8.6
Connecticut	88.2	89.7	77.1	77.1	7.2	6.4	12.9	8.7
Delaware	83.6	87.0	72.8	67.1	8.5	6.7	14.1	7.6
District of Columbia	64.6	77.4	60.0	60.8	4.3	7.2	16.7	8.0
Florida	83.3	86.5	72.3	80.5	7.9	6.6	12.2	6.4
Georgia	85.2	89.0	78.0	73.3	8.5	6.4	12.7	5.4
Hawaii	84.2	89.3	86.4	83.6	7.3	4.9	8.6	6.1
Idaho	78.9	79.2	75.7	60.0	5.8	5.7	—	6.7
Illinois	81.5	84.7	68.8	71.4	8.0	6.3	14.5	5.8
Indiana	80.4	82.2	64.7	66.8	7.6	6.9	13.9	7.1
Iowa	87.1	87.7	75.0	69.1	6.4	6.0	14.7	5.9
Kansas	85.5	86.4	76.4	64.7	6.9	6.4	13.4	6.0
Kentucky	84.7	85.8	74.3	75.5	7.9	7.4	12.7	7.4
Louisiana	81.1	88.7	70.4	81.9	9.9	6.9	14.3	5.2
Maine	89.9	90.1	85.5	78.9	5.9	5.8	—	—
Maryland	88.3	92.4	78.5	81.0	8.6	6.3	13.4	6.2
Massachusetts	83.7	85.6	70.6	70.2	6.4	6.0	10.4	8.0
Michigan	84.2	87.0	71.5	73.1	7.7	6.4	13.6	6.1
Minnesota	83.5	86.0	64.5	59.8	5.8	5.4	12.0	5.9
Mississippi	78.6	88.0	68.0	80.2	9.9	7.3	12.9	—
Missouri	85.5	87.9	72.2	77.9	7.5	6.5	12.8	6.3
Montana	82.7	84.4	81.6	73.9	6.4	6.2	—	—
Nebraska	84.5	85.4	73.2	66.6	6.3	6.0	10.7	6.4
Nevada	77.6	78.5	67.4	65.7	7.5	6.8	14.0	6.2
New Hampshire	89.1	89.3	76.4	75.5	4.8	4.7	—	—
New Jersey	81.8	85.5	65.5	70.9	7.7	6.4	13.1	7.1
New Mexico	69.7	71.9	60.9	66.4	7.5	7.5	13.5	7.7
New York	79.1	82.6	68.4	68.4	7.7	6.5	11.9	7.5
North Carolina	83.5	88.1	71.8	67.8	8.7	6.8	13.9	6.2
North Dakota	84.7	86.3	78.7	71.5	5.7	5.7	—	—
Ohio	85.4	87.6	72.5	76.4	7.5	6.5	13.2	6.8
Oklahoma	78.7	81.1	67.1	70.1	7.4	6.8	13.1	6.8
Oregon	79.9	80.3	76.6	65.6	5.3	5.2	11.2	5.9
Pennsylvania	84.2	87.1	67.1	70.6	7.5	6.5	14.1	9.5
Rhode Island	89.6	90.8	78.6	84.1	6.9	6.5	12.0	7.4
South Carolina	79.4	86.2	67.1	63.9	9.2	7.0	13.2	6.4
South Dakota	81.7	85.5	63.9	71.3	5.8	5.8	—	—
Tennessee	83.3	86.7	71.5	65.5	8.8	7.3	14.2	7.0
Texas	78.1	78.4	74.0	70.2	7.2	6.5	12.4	6.6
Utah	83.8	84.7	64.5	64.9	6.6	6.6	12.0	8.2
Vermont	87.4	87.5	—	—	6.2	6.2	—	—
Virginia	84.5	88.4	72.1	72.6	7.7	6.3	12.2	7.2
Washington	83.2	84.1	76.7	70.7	5.6	5.3	10.8	5.5
West Virginia	81.9	82.5	65.9	73.7	8.0	7.8	12.4	—
Wisconsin	84.1	87.0	66.2	69.5	6.3	5.6	12.7	6.5
Wyoming	81.9	82.5	64.6	69.3	8.4	8.3	—	9.6
United States	**81.9**	**84.0**	**71.4**	**72.2**	**7.4**	**6.3**	**13.0**	**6.3**

*Care begun in the first trimester (first three months) of pregnancy. **Less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces).
— Number too small to calculate a reliable rate.

†Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics

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New data show prenatal, postdelivery progress

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data for infants of Hispanic descent (see Table 3.1 on page 6).

Comprehensive care initiated during the first trimester is important in terms of detecting and managing early on any pre-existing medical conditions in pregnant women that could influence the infants' subsequent health and survival. It also allows health experts to assess the risk for low birthweight and preterm birth, NCHS reported.

Even when delivered at full term, Black infants still have a higher risk of dying, something that suggests a range of socioeconomic disparities among Whites and Blacks are at play, reported Dr. Alexander. More documentation and research into what these disparities are is needed, he said. "We need to focus on prevention of the preterm births, but we also need to [explore] just why these [full-]term infants are dying."

Just as important, timely prenatal care helps provide women with health behavior advice and frequently serves as a gateway for those pregnant women who may never before have encountered the health care system.

Infant mortality rates improve steadily

NCHS reported 3,891,494 live births and 28,487 infant deaths in the United States in 1996. Infant mortality rates, which measure the proportion of infants who die before they reach age 1, fell nearly 4 percent in 1996 to 7.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. In 1995, NCHS reported 3,899,589 live births and 29,583 infant deaths, an infant mortality rate of 7.6 per 1,000.

Building on steady progress in the 1980s (the rate dropped from 12.6 per 1,000 in 1980 to 9.8 per 1,000 in 1989), solid improvements—across racial groups—have been documented in the 1990s as well. Early prenatal care, wider use of medical technologies like ultrasound that can detect problems early on, and neonatal care developments may help explain the improvement, said Dr. Greg Alexander, professor and chair of the Maternal and Child Health Department at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Infant mortality is less likely when women begin prenatal care in the first trimester as compared with those who receive care only in the second or third trimesters, or not at all. NCHS found that in 1996, infant mortality rates were higher for infants whose mothers

- began prenatal care after the first trimester of pregnancy;
- were teens or 40 years of age and older;
- did not complete high school;
- were unmarried; or
- smoked during pregnancy.

Infant mortality also was higher for male infants, for multiple births, and for infants born preterm or at low birthweight, NCHS reported.

Infant mortality rates still vary according to race

The 1996 infant mortality rates vary considerably according to the mother's race. For example, Table 3.2 shows that the infant mortality rate among Blacks—at 14.7 deaths per 1,000—is more than double that of Whites, at 6.1 deaths per 1,000.

The wide disparity between infant mortality rates for Whites as compared with Blacks "is a great matter of concern," Alexander noted. He offered a number of possible explanations for the difference. Even though race itself does not put Black mothers at higher risk than White mothers of delivering preterm infants, data show that Black mothers do have a higher percentage of preterm births, which is a risk factor for infant mortality.

Also, even when delivered at full term (37–41 weeks of gestation), Black infants still have a higher risk of dying, something that suggests a range of socioeconomic disparities among Whites and Blacks are at play, reported Alexander. More documentation and research into what these disparities are is needed, he said. "We need to focus on prevention of the preterm births, but we also need to

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Table 3.2 Infant Mortality

Infant mortality rates,* by race, 1980–1996

	All races	White	Black
1980	12.6	10.9	22.2
1981	11.9	10.3	20.8
1982	11.5	9.9	20.5
1983	11.2	9.6	20.0
1984	10.8	9.3	19.2
1985	10.6	9.2	19.0
1986	10.4	8.8	18.9
1987	10.1	8.5	18.8
1988	10.0	8.4	18.5
1989	9.8	8.1	18.6
1990	9.2	7.6	18.0
1991	8.9	7.3	17.6
1992	8.5	6.9	16.8
1993	8.4	6.8	16.5
1994	8.0	6.6	15.8
1995	7.6	6.3	15.1
1996	7.3	6.1	14.7

*Infant deaths before the first birthday per 1,000 live births. These rates are based on calendar-year data, that is, births and deaths from the same year. They differ from the rates in Table 4, which are based on linked birth and death records.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics

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New data show prenatal, postdelivery progress

(Continued from page 7)

[explore] just why these [full-]term infants are dying."

Low birthweight rate edges up

According to the 1996 statistics, the low birthweight rate for all races increased by one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.4 percent. Similarly, the rate for infants with very low birthweight (3 pounds, 4 ounces, or less) increased slightly, inching up to 1.37 percent in 1996 from 1.35 percent in 1995.

For Whites, the low birthweight rate rose to 6.4 percent in 1996 from 6.2 percent in 1995. For Blacks, the 1995 rate of 13.1 percent moved downward slightly to 13.0 in 1996.

Low birthweight rates for all races declined during the 1970s and early 1980s but have risen 10 percent since 1984, according to NCHS. Although rates for Whites remained steady or increased slightly throughout the late 1980s and 1990s, rates for Blacks tended to fluctuate more from year to year, moving downward slightly during the early to mid-1990s.

According to NCHS, most of the increase in the occurrence of low birthweight in 1996 can be attributed to the increase in low birthweight among births to non-Hispanic White women and to the growth in the number of multiple births among these women.

However, Alexander pointed to the impact of changes in medical interventions, therapies, and technologies as part of the explanation. When doctors learn that a fetus is in crisis, for example, they may be inclined to intervene earlier in order to reduce the potential risk of death.

New developments in the neonatal field make it possible for infants delivered very early—and who may have serious complications—to survive. These low birthweight, preterm infants may be driving up the rate, Alexander said.

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Table 3.3 — **Infant Mortality**

Infant mortality rates, by race and by state, 1996

	Infant mortality rate*		
	All races	White	Black
Alabama	10.5	8.2	15.5
Alaska	7.2	5.8	—
Arizona	7.6	7.1	20.5
Arkansas	9.3	8.1	14.0
California	5.9	5.5	13.9
Colorado	6.6	6.4	14.7
Connecticut	6.4	5.3	14.9
Delaware	7.6	6.0	12.7
District of Columbia	14.9	—	17.6
Florida	7.5	5.8	13.3
Georgia	9.2	6.3	14.9
Hawaii	5.8	—	—
Idaho	7.4	7.4	—
Illinois	8.6	6.4	18.2
Indiana	8.7	7.5	18.4
Iowa	7.0	6.5	—
Kansas	8.3	7.2	23.1
Kentucky	7.5	6.9	13.6
Louisiana	9.0	6.5	12.8
Maine	4.4	4.4	—
Maryland	8.5	5.7	14.5
Massachusetts	5.0	4.8	8.8
Michigan	8.1	5.9	17.6
Minnesota	5.9	5.1	14.5
Mississippi	11.0	8.0	14.6
Missouri	7.6	6.2	15.7
Montana	7.0	6.8	—
Nebraska	8.7	8.4	—
Nevada	6.2	5.4	—
New Hampshire	5.0	5.0	—
New Jersey	6.9	5.3	14.9
New Mexico	6.2	6.1	—
New York	7.0	5.7	12.4
North Carolina	9.2	7.1	15.3
North Dakota	5.3	5.0	—
Ohio	7.7	6.3	16.2
Oklahoma	8.5	7.7	17.6
Oregon	5.6	5.3	—
Pennsylvania	7.8	6.4	16.9
Rhode Island	5.2	5.1	—
South Carolina	8.4	5.6	13.7
South Dakota	5.7	4.5	—
Tennessee	8.5	6.7	15.4
Texas	6.3	5.7	11.7
Utah	6.0	5.9	—
Vermont	7.1	6.9	—
Virginia	7.7	6.1	13.8
Washington	6.0	5.6	15.7
West Virginia	7.4	6.9	—
Wisconsin	7.3	6.1	18.8
Wyoming	6.4	6.2	—
United States	**7.3**	**6.1**	**14.7**

*Infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
— Number too small to calculate a reliable rate.
Source: National Center for Health Statistics

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New data show prenatal, postdelivery progress
(Continued from page 8)

Maternal and infant health in the future

Programs emphasizing prenatal care, such as Medicaid and the new State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), are extremely important to ensuring the future good health of America's pregnant women, mothers, and infants, said CDF Acting Health Director Gregg Haifley.

Through these programs, mothers-to-be receive care and services that promote their chances of having a healthy pregnancy and delivering a healthy infant. And women who use health care services early in their pregnancies will more likely pursue appropriate health care services for their children later on—by scheduling well-baby visits, immunizations, and regular health checkups. Such care is accessible to working, low-income parents who enroll their children in CHIP, which is currently being implemented in states throughout the country.

"By getting the word out about CHIP and Medicaid enrollment and benefits available in their states and communities, advocates can help sustain the recent improvements we've seen in maternal and child health indicators," Haifley said. "We are heading in the right direction, so if we keep up our momentum, we can reach our goal of having all pregnant women and infants receive the care they need to lead healthy lives."

If you are interested in enrolling families in CHIP or working with CDF and local children's and health groups to advocate at the state level for improvements to CHIP, please refer to the Special Report in the September issue of CDF Reports, *access www.childrensdefense.org on the Web, or call 800-CDF-1200.*

Please note that the CHIP phone numbers for Texas and New York have changed since the publication of the September CDF Reports. *The Texas CHIP number is 800-422-2956. The New York City Medicaid/ Child Health Plus (CHP) number is no longer working—families in New York City should call the statewide numbers for CHP (800-698-4543) and Medicaid (800-522-5006).*

For more information about maternal and infant health, contact CDF's Health Division by phone at 202-662-3551 or at cdfhealth@childrensdefense.org by e-mail.

Table 3.4 — **U.S. Births**

Selected maternal and infant health indicators, by race and Hispanic origin of mother, 1996

Characteristic	All races	White	Black	Native American	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Hispanic†
Percentage						
Early prenatal care*	81.9%	84.0%	71.4%	67.7%	81.2%	72.2%
Late or no prenatal care**	4.0	3.3	7.3	8.6	3.9	6.7
Low birthweight***	7.4%	6.3%	13.0%	6.5%	7.1%	6.3%
Very low birthweight****	1.4	1.1	3.0	1.2	1.0	1.1
Births to teens	12.9	11.3	22.8	20.9	5.3	17.4
Births to unmarried women	32.4%	25.7%	69.8%	58.0%	16.7%	40.7%
Births to mothers who have not completed high school	22.4	21.6	28.2	33.0	15.0	51.4
Per 1,000						
Infant mortality rate*****	7.3	6.1	14.1	10.0	5.2	6.1

*Care begun in the first three months of pregnancy.
**Care begun in the last three months of pregnancy or not at all.
***Less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces).
****Less than 1,500 grams (3 pounds, 4 ounces).
*****Infant deaths per 1,000 live births. These rates are from the linked birth-death files for 1996 and differ somewhat from other infant mortality rates published by the National Center for Health Statistics.

†Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics

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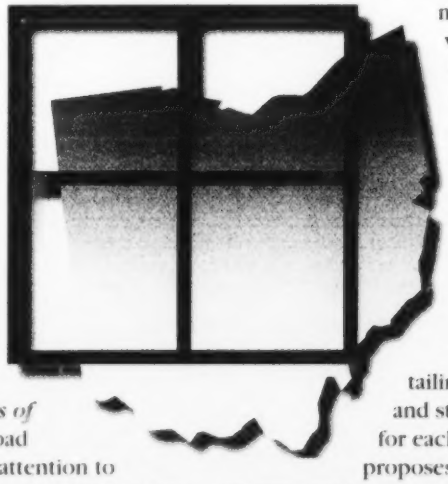
Windows of Opportunity in Ohio's 1998 election

Major party gubernatorial candidates, Democrat **Lee Fisher** and Republican **Bob Taft**, presented their platforms on children's issues at a mid-September conference, "For Ohio's Children, Ohio's Future." CDF-Ohio and the Ohio Head Start Association, Inc., sponsored the event, along with numerous cosponsors. Before the meeting, both candidates responded to CDF-Ohio's most recent policy report, *Windows of Opportunity: Ohio Children and the 1998 Election*.



Fisher said the incoming governor and legislature should use *Windows of Opportunity* as a "road map" to guide their attention to the struggles children and families face every day. Taft, who is now Ohio's secretary of state, said, "I am pleased to see that many of the positions outlined by the CDF[-Ohio report] are consistent with the messages I have delivered . . . throughout my campaign."

The three-day conference also featured workshops, plenary sessions, and a reception in which attendees met with state General Assembly members and candidates. *Windows of Opportunity* was made available to all attendees.

"Our state government has the power to make Ohio one of the top 10 states for children," said CDF-Ohio Director **Mark Real**, referring to "the unprecedented authority over major children's programs that Ohio now has." This authority stems from changes in welfare policy and federal block grants (for the Children's Health Insurance Program and child care), as well as the Ohio Supreme Court's challenge to revamp public education. CDF-Ohio produced *Windows of Opportunity* to show how the state can take advantage of this "historic opportunity to improve the lives of low-income children and their working parents."

Seven areas that affect large numbers of Ohio children should be addressed, according to *Windows of Opportunity*: maternal and child health, Head Start, child support enforcement, child care, welfare reform, tax policy, and education. The report marks the first time that CDF-Ohio has proposed specific policies to improve education.

Along with detailing background and status information for each area, the report proposes specific policy recommendations and timelines for their implementation. It includes more than two dozen "common-sense" steps the state government can take for children. One recommendation advocates that an Ohio Earned Income Tax Credit, which would reward working parents, should be used in lieu of another, less family-friendly tax cut.

"Because we understand that the next governor and General Assembly must increase school funding, nearly every policy we suggest draws upon existing dollars or existing tax cuts," said Real. "It is important, however, to remember that these programs serve the same children who attend public schools. Rather than lament how parents are not involved in their children's lives, we want policies that alleviate, rather than perpetuate, the parental time and financial crunch. Our families work. We need strategies that work for them."

For copies of Windows of Opportunity, *e-mail requests to cdfohio@infinet.com or call CDF-Ohio at 614-221-2244.*

The ins and outs of child support

Too often, getting absent parents to help pay for their children's needs can seem overwhelming, if not impossible. *A Parent's Guide to Child Support* can help custodial parents navigate around the hurdles.

"Children suffer if they don't have support from both their parents," said **Nancy Ebb**, senior staff attorney in CDF's Family Income Division, who wrote the easy-to-use booklet. "The federal–state system of child support enforcement is not perfect, but it *can* help struggling families if they know what is available to them."

A Parent's Guide deciphers "legalese" and answers important questions like "What if my child's parent changes jobs to avoid being found?" and "What kinds of help can I get from my state child support office?" It also advises parents to press for child support even when the cash amount is small.

"The absent parent's income may, and often does, go up over time," said Ebb. "In addition, more than cash payments can be at stake." Potential compensation through inheritance, life insurance, and Social Security survivor and disability benefits, along with veterans' benefits, must be considered.

According to *A Parent's Guide*, establishing paternity, even in contested cases, is much simpler than in the past because of new legal safeguards and improved medical tests. The guidebook also examines how the 1996 welfare law complicates child support issues for families who apply for or receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and provides advice for these parents.

A Parent's Guide discusses the ways the 1996 law expanded the abilities of states to track down noncustodial parents, including in complicated interstate cases, by such means as having employers report new hires to a central state registry and by having

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CDF at Work

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such information shared nationally. The guide includes a full listing of child support enforcement offices in each of the 50 states.

"We hope that child advocates will share the guide with single-parent families in their own communities so that parents will not hesitate to use the legal, medical, and electronic resources that are available to get all the support their children need and deserve," Ebb said.

To obtain a copy of A Parent's Guide to Child Support, available for $4.95, contact CDF Fulfillment (see page 18).

CDF expands its well-spring of committed advocates for children

In founding PolicyLink and becoming CDF's newest board member this past September, **Angela Glover Blackwell** accomplished two more important milestones in just one month. Always a trailblazer, she has been a driving force in the community-building movement.

Angela Glover Blackwell

She began her career as a lawyer who sued public agencies on behalf of low-income clients. "I saw that most of these agency people were basically good people who wanted to do the right thing for their clients, but they truly didn't know how," said Angela Blackwell.

In 1987, she founded the Urban Strategies Council to unite a broad spectrum of public agencies with community stakeholders. They then worked collectively—and successfully—on problems that they wouldn't have been able to solve on their own. To meet the needs of the poorest neighborhoods of Oakland, Calif., they created and applied community-building strategies now being used across the nation.

In 1995, Angela Blackwell became senior vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation. She oversaw programs in equal opportunity, arts and humanities, and international science-based development. Describing why she accepted the position, she said, "Part of the impetus . . . was to have access to a platform from which to launch a broader conversation about opportunity, equity, and community building."

That platform led her to founding PolicyLink, headquartered in Oakland, Calif. As president, she will bring the community-building movement to a national audience so more communities can reduce poverty and help children. PolicyLink has generously agreed to share office space with CDF's new California health project.

Blackwell, a co-founder of the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC), has served as one of three coordinators of BCCC's working committee since it began and "continues as its brilliant and peerless meeting chair and synthesizer," said CDF President **Marian Wright Edelman**.

CDF's new California Child Health Policy Director, **Deena Lahn**, brings more than 15 years of advocacy experience, with expertise in coalition building and policy. She will head CDF's efforts in the 100% Campaign, a campaign for health insurance for all of California's children. "I'm looking forward to seeing a lot more children with health insurance in California and to increasing the number of people who participate in children's advocacy. I like convincing people that they don't have to accept the way things are," said Lahn.

Deena Lahn

She previously served as the executive director of the Child Care Law Center and lobbied for the Office of Management and Budget in New York on such issues as school aid equity and funding for the public hospital system.

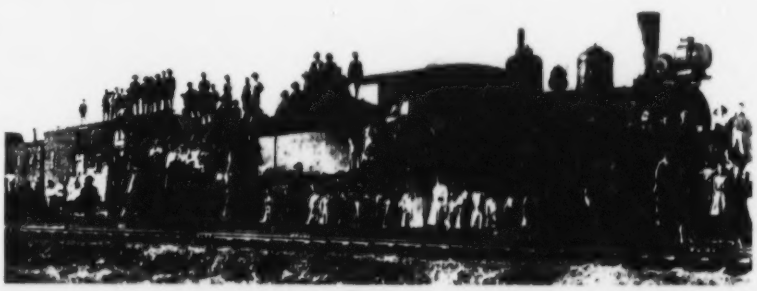
As executive director of Emergency Service Network, Lahn coordinated advocacy efforts in California's Alameda County to set aside housing for homeless and very low-income families at military bases slated for closing.

For more information on CDF's health enrollment campaign in California, contact Lahn by e-mail at dlahn@childrensdefense.org or by phone at 415-279-4672.

Casting limelight upon children's needs

A production of History Theatre's Orphan Train will set the stage for a benefit for CDF-Minnesota. The story takes place in the late 1800s, when orphan trains took more than 150,000 children from New York and Boston to new homes in the American Midwest. Although many of the adoptive parents provided loving shelter, others abused and overworked the children, some of whom were not orphans at all but from families who sent them on the orphan trains out of poverty and desperation.

For ticket information or to find out how to provide full or partial sponsorship of the evening's performance and reception—Saturday, Nov. 21—call Jim Koppel, executive director of CDF-Minnesota, at 651-227-6121.



Necessary

News from the Black Community Crusade for Children

Rising to the challenge for the sake of children

A year ahead of schedule, the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) raised $3 million that instantly doubled. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation matched, dollar for dollar, donations to BCCC from the Black community. This challenge grant had allowed five years for fundraising, but BCCC met the goal in less than four.

"We are very pleased by the Black community's quick response to the Mott Foundation's challenge grant and by how this strengthens BCCC's ability to help children," said Barbara Kelley Duncan, BCCC's national director.

The generous support allows BCCC to expand its efforts to protect children by mobilizing Black youths and adult leaders in a sustained crusade. Although BCCC focuses in particular on helping children who are Black and poor, its ultimate aim is to help all children, said Kelley Duncan.

"One of the keys to the success of the Mott challenge was the overwhelmingly enthusiastic response of the donors," said Pat Appel, CDF's director of development. "The Mott challenge was designed specifically to broaden support for BCCC within the African American community. People rose to the challenge by hosting or attending house parties, where friends and neighbors gathered to learn more about BCCC and to contribute to the crusade."

The funding allows BCCC to continue building and fortifying networks in the Black community that can address children's needs. Efforts include providing training and technical assistance to regional and local alliances so they can adopt action models that have been tested and strengthened by BCCC.

An overarching goal of BCCC is to identify, train, nurture, and link 2,000 young African American leaders by the year 2000. These servant-leaders, ages 18 to 30, are a part of BCCC's Student Leadership Network for Children (see box at right). "Mott's support allows us to develop a long-term, advanced ladder of leadership for these young people," said Kelley Duncan.

Supermodels, students, celebrities, and clergy took part in House Parties across the nation to raise funds to meet the Mott challenge for BCCC.

In addition to training young adults to become effective leaders, BCCC will continue to work with other groups and individuals, as well as build networks among them. Its training programs at the Former Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tenn., reach out to diverse populations, including faith communities, women, youths, and parents. .

"Haley provides a place where people can learn from each other, energize themselves, and strategize about what their next steps should be so they can make a difference in their communities," said Cynthia Finch, director of Haley Farm.

The Mott Foundation grant provides an endowment for Haley Farm, and the interest income will help to sustain the work of BCCC and Haley in CDF's mission to *Leave No Child Behind*.

Turning a war zone into a children's zone

"Every ill of society is prevalent in this 24-block radius," said Eric Bell about the section of Harlem where he works to protect children. "The young people here are suffering and fighting through the same experiences I did when I was their age."

Now 27, Bell is using the strategies he's learned to help children overcome their low self-esteem, low grades, and inability to see a life for themselves past age 18. He coordinates the Harlem Peacemakers, one of the programs run by the Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families. He calls the group of 80 young adults he directs "the Rheedlen branch of the SLNC," because he and they are all active members of BCCC's Student Leadership Network for Children (SLNC). The network identifies young people (ages 18 to 30) who are committed to helping children and gives them the skills and support they need to make a difference.

The Peacemakers serve as mentors in three Harlem public elementary schools that have among the nation's lowest test scores. Working in the schools every Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., they have helped transform the classrooms and hallways into safe havens for learning and provide the students with positive role models. In the three years since the Peacemakers first partnered with these schools, said Bell, the students' reading and math scores have increased an average of 7 percent to 17 percent.

As SLNC members, Bell and his fellow Peacemakers both benefit from and enhance the national network. Bell is an Ella Baker national trainer for BCCC, serves on BCCC's leadership development committee, and organizes activities across the country and in his own community. The SLNC's upcoming events in Harlem includes playing Santa to needy children on Christmas Day.

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Lowest American gun death toll for children since 1989

(Continued from page 2)

areas and elsewhere in the U.S., children still have frequent, unauthorized access to guns, and that access too often means the difference between life and death," said Wade. "In 1996, gunfire took one less child every day. But as we celebrate that so many children were spared, we must not forget the ones who weren't."

"Despite all the recent inroads in urban California areas and elsewhere in the U.S., children still have frequent, unauthorized access to guns, and that access too often means the difference between life and death."

Enforcing responsible gun ownership

To comply with a new state law, effective Oct. 1, all gun buyers in Connecticut have to get an effective trigger lock for each firearm they purchase.

"Our main goal is not to hassle law-abiding gun owners, but to reinforce that gun ownership is a major responsibility," said State Rep. Mike Lawlor, who chairs the judiciary committee that initiated the bill.

Gun owners could always return the trigger locks later—no one can force them to be responsible, said Lawlor. "We can only make it as easy as possible for them to be responsible. And we're putting them on notice, telling them what their obligations and liabilities are."

To reach those who already own guns, the Connecticut Collaborative for Education Against Gun Violence, along with the Connecticut SAFE KIDS coalition, is beginning to help communities distribute gun locks for free. "What we're doing is not unlike the way that bike helmets were first handled, giving them out so people become aware of how these can save their children's lives," said Sue McCalley, executive director of the collaborative.

Along with the distribution program, the collaborative will be mounting a public service campaign. Using billboards and placards on buses, it is spreading the message that gun locks can make all the difference in keeping a child's curiosity from creating a tragedy.

The new handgun safety law passed by unanimous vote in early May and provided several other provisions, including a requirement that gun applicants' fingerprints be submitted to the FBI for a criminal records search. It also supersedes a prior law that allowed anyone to bring a handgun onto school property or to school-sponsored activities as long as they had a valid permit to carry one.

The 1998 law builds on previous legislation to reduce gun violence. Eight years ago, Connecticut became one of the first states to pass a child access prevention law, which among other things, required loaded weapons to be in

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"In 1996, gunfire took one less child every day," said Kim Wade, CDF's violence prevention coordinator. "But as we celebrate that so many children were spared, we must not forget the ones who weren't." And despite the decrease, gunfire still killed an American child an average of every two hours.

Remedy to reduce gun deaths demands more than doctoring

The decrease in child gun deaths is *not* due to improvements in medical technology and life-saving techniques, said Dr. Garen Wintemute. In addition to being the director of the violence prevention research program at the University of California at Davis, Wintemute is an attending physician in the emergency department at that university's medical center.

"Treatment of spinal cord injuries is getting better, but by and large, the patient's outcome is determined by the severity of the wound or wounds more than the medical care," said Wintemute.

He referred to a 1996 report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Arthur Kellermann and colleagues found that 97 percent of people killed by gunfire die within the first 24 hours of being shot. Looking more closely, they found that 57 percent die at the scene of the shooting, while 23 percent die in the emergency room.

New data indicates that the severity of gunshot wounds is increasing. A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, published in July's *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, compared the number of fatal and nonfatal shootings. In the summer of 1993, when the overall total of fatal and nonfatal shootings peaked, 27.9 percent of gunshot victims died. By the spring of 1995, the end of the study period, that percentage had risen to 31.6 percent. "The conjecture is that the firepower of guns has increased," said Wintemute.

"There is almost universal agreement among medical personnel," he added. "If we as physicians are to make substantial inroads into the number of people who die from gunshot wounds, we need to make those inroads into the number of people who get shot."

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Lowest American gun death toll for children since 1989
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a lockbox or secure from a child under age 16.

In 1993, Connecticut was the third state in the nation to pass a comprehensive ban on assault weapons. In 1994, it passed comprehensive handgun legislation that, among other things, targeted reducing gun sales to minors.

Lawlor explained that previously, owners weren't required in any way to check if someone was eligible to buy their handguns. "You could sell 500 guns to a six year old and not have violated any state gun law," said Lawlor. "The police were saying that a lot of youths were getting guns this way."

The 1994 Connecticut handgun legislation mandates that if you're selling or transferring a handgun, you are obligated to make sure the buyer is eligible. The state offers a toll-free phone number to get the necessary paperwork, and the receiver has to have a permit with a picture ID and authorization from the police.

"Now, if a gun is used in a crime, the last registered owner could be arrested for the illegal transfer of the gun, with no excuses accepted. The owner can't say, I loaned it to my sister-in-law or sold it to my neighbor down the street," said Lawlor.

"Imagine that a trooper stops a car filled with youths and guns," said Lawlor. "They show a permit to carry the guns, but the officer has no way of checking if it's authentic because there's not a national database. This Congress has come up with some doozies, but this one tops the list. It's like giving a get-out-of-jail-free card for gunrunners and gang bangers."

"Stop the violence! No more guns! Exchange guns for books!"

This was the plea of more than 100 children at their Cease Fire Youth Rally in Washington, D.C. Joined by parents, city council candidates, camera crews, and more, they marched from the Sojourners Freedom School to a neighborhood park.

They filled a makeshift coffin with water pistols and other toy guns, trading them in for books. One class of 8 to 11 year olds wrote the following poem for the event:

Connect with people not guns
Each and every child needs to
give away a gun for a book
Amazing children
Stop the violence
Eager to save lives
Friends are better than guns
I can make a difference
Rub the pain away
Everybody can help

Photo © Sojourners Neighborhood Center

Although Connecticut has taken important steps forward to protect its children, it now feels under fire because of pending federal legislation. Two bills in Congress, H.R.218 and S.10, would require every state to honor the gun carry permits of other states.

"Imagine that a trooper stops a car filled with youths and guns," said Lawlor. "They show a permit to carry the guns, but the officer has no way of checking if it's authentic because there's not a national database.

"This Congress has come up with some doozies, but this one tops the list," he said. "It's like giving a get-out-of-jail-free card for gunrunners and gang bangers."

Success in San Francisco Bay Area

A bridge away from San Quentin, the city of Richmond, Calif., has witnessed a 75 percent decrease in homicides in the last three years, according to Mariatheresa Viramontes, executive director of the East Bay Public Safety Corridor Partnership. This alliance, established in 1994 to reduce crime and violence, unites 26 communities, including Richmond, 23 law enforcement agencies, and 18 school districts.

Gun violence has had a particularly devastating impact on children and youths in the East Bay area. "For those ages 5 through 23, homicide was the leading cause of death in our area. From kindergarten to college age, we were losing them to homicide, and guns were the weapon of choice," said Viramontes.

It seems more than just a coincidence that the great decline in Richmond's gun deaths began shortly after the partnership launched an intensive collaboration among local government officials, schools, police precincts, community members, and others to reduce gun violence.

"It's a testimony to the political will of the community and the people," said Viramontes. "They had enough of homicide. They were tired of violence and ready to do what was necessary to change the dynamics of what was happening in their community."

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Firearm deaths among children and teens, ages 0–19, by cause, 1994–1998

	Total*			Homicide*			Suicide			Accident			Unknown Intent		
	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996
Alabama	148	119	104	78	61	59	34	38	25	30	15	14	6	5	6
Alaska	28	19	22	7	7	6	14	8	12	7	4	4	0	0	0
Arizona	125	140	120	60	92	64	45	36	47	10	10	4	10	2	5
Arkansas	62	85	63	33	48	27	23	28	26	2	3	9	4	6	1
California	887	843	672	698	650	508	119	129	108	58	53	52	12	11	4
Colorado	67	63	43	26	28	15	35	26	23	3	8	4	3	1	1
Connecticut	53	29	36	35	23	29	14	5	6	4	1	1	0	0	0
Delaware	8	10	5	3	7	4	3	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
District of Columbia	77	75	62	75	73	59	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Florida	229	204	190	150	132	116	67	56	57	10	12	12	2	4	5
Georgia	188	154	160	111	94	79	55	46	51	16	14	24	6	0	6
Hawaii	9	3	3	0	2	2	8	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	25	29	27	5	7	11	14	14	11	6	7	4	0	1	1
Illinois	398	320	308	327	250	263	52	50	33	15	16	7	4	4	5
Indiana	118	117	98	59	59	55	44	40	30	13	15	8	2	3	5
Iowa	39	28	22	7	7	8	27	18	13	4	3	0	1	0	1
Kansas	63	49	53	33	28	24	22	16	22	6	5	7	2	0	0
Kentucky	73	59	52	22	20	23	33	27	20	18	12	9	0	0	0
Louisiana	211	174	192	137	115	133	49	37	43	15	19	15	10	3	1
Maine	14	6	5	6	0	1	8	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
Maryland	95	143	106	81	118	88	11	20	13	2	1	3	1	4	2
Massachusetts	46	40	32	36	32	26	9	8	5	1	0	0	0	0	1
Michigan	238	202	157	153	129	96	63	52	42	13	14	13	9	7	6
Minnesota	42	54	56	17	22	25	19	24	21	5	8	6	1	0	4
Mississippi	106	101	77	61	48	38	20	26	19	22	21	18	3	6	2
Missouri	164	139	101	99	84	63	30	40	33	29	11	5	6	4	0
Montana	23	20	20	4	4	4	11	13	12	7	2	3	1	1	1
Nebraska	22	24	28	6	14	8	10	7	17	4	3	3	2	0	0
Nevada	42	44	36	20	17	25	15	21	8	4	5	3	3	1	0
New Hampshire	6	10	7	1	2	1	5	7	6	0	1	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	63	55	66	44	43	55	13	11	6	3	0	4	3	1	1
New Mexico	49	37	43	21	17	22	24	20	17	3	0	2	1	0	2
New York	331	234	199	251	170	150	57	43	43	19	16	6	4	5	0
North Carolina	157	150	135	79	77	70	60	53	49	15	19	15	3	1	1
North Dakota	12	12	9	1	2	0	10	9	8	1	1	1	0	0	0
Ohio	154	132	126	71	64	75	62	46	31	20	19	17	1	3	3
Oklahoma	78	74	61	43	30	30	25	34	25	6	8	5	4	2	1
Oregon	55	57	39	19	18	9	26	28	24	9	10	6	1	1	0
Pennsylvania	156	159	181	96	100	113	50	50	59	7	7	4	3	2	5
Rhode Island	6	6	6	4	6	5	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	80	66	78	49	26	39	15	24	27	16	14	9	0	2	3
South Dakota	14	13	10	0	2	1	10	7	9	4	4	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	127	137	123	65	75	66	38	40	32	23	16	23	1	6	2
Texas	523	462	359	319	289	202	151	126	121	38	32	27	15	15	9
Utah	45	54	37	14	14	11	30	37	24	0	2	0	1	1	2
Vermont	7	6	5	0	0	1	6	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	1
Virginia	116	106	109	67	65	54	37	29	43	9	10	12	3	2	0
Washington	93	75	67	43	37	31	37	29	31	8	7	4	5	2	1
West Virginia	25	28	16	4	10	6	14	15	8	1	3	2	3	0	0
Wisconsin	78	74	76	34	30	35	28	31	32	15	4	8	1	9	1
Wyoming	18	14	11	5	1	1	11	10	7	2	3	2	0	0	1
United States	5,793	5,254	4,613	3,579	3,249	2,836	1,565	1,450	1,309	512	440	376	137	115	92

*Total gun death and homicide figures do *not* include firearm deaths by legal (police) intervention or child deaths by air rifles.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics
Calculations by Children's Defense Fund

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Lowest American gun death toll for children since 1989

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The East Bay partnership promotes a three-pronged approach of assessment, prevention, and intervention to keep children and youths safe. It offers 12 strategies that range from gun regulations to safe routes home from school for children, with volunteers screened by the police keeping a watchful eye. Communities in the East Bay area that opt to join the partnership assess their individual needs, then decide on which strategies to implement.

Participating communities have passed local gun ordinances that

- impose a tax on concealable weapons;
- prohibit new permits for selling guns out of homes;
- establish standards for building security to make it more difficult to steal guns;
- ban "junk" guns such as Saturday Night Specials;
- require trigger locks at point of sale;
- require background checks on gun dealers for certain kinds of felonies and for a history of mental illness.

The East Bay partnership developed its first model project for gun abatement in Richmond. A hotline allows people to report if they see someone selling guns on the street or carrying guns in an unusual setting. The callers' identities are protected, and they are given a reward if an illegal weapon is retrieved. A trained group of officers investigates the suspected illegal activity.

"We've already had some very startling results, confiscating illegal weapons. The most dramatic involved the possession of automatic weapons on a roof across from a school that was in session," said Viramontes.

In addition to gun initiatives, the East Bay partnership's strategies for making neighborhoods safer for children include the following: extended-day activities at schools; job-training programs; youth leadership opportunities; youth academies that develop positive relationships between young people and the police; a comprehensive truancy prevention program; help for first-time offenders; and conflict resolution and mediation training.

"Gun laws alone cannot significantly reduce violence in your community," said Viramontes. "You also need to look at and address the underlying causes of violence—isolation issues, employment and education issues, self-esteem, poverty, the drug trade, the role of substance abuse, and family violence."

Oakland neighborhoods targeted for gun violence abatement have reduced the number of homicides 50 percent. In Richmond, the initiatives have had a ripple effect, with a 39 percent reduction in all crime, according to Viramontes.

"Battery and assault still occur and youths are still being injured, but we already see a great improvement," said Viramontes. "This problem has been with us for at least 20 years; it will take many more than three years to make a long-term difference. But we have learned that we don't have to live with violence. There are things that we can do—it just takes political will."

Limit gun access, lessen suicides?

Close to one-third of the American children dying from gunfire are committing suicide. Guns remain the most common method of suicide for children and are the most likely to result in a fatality.

Whereas the overall U.S. rate of youth suicide is two times higher than that of 25 other countries, the rate of youth suicide by firearms in America is 10 times higher than the rate in those other nations.

The disparity strongly suggests that limiting children's access to guns will lessen the number of children killing themselves.

Table 1.2 Child Firearm Deaths Over Time

Firearm deaths of children and teens, ages 1–19, by cause, 1979–1996

	Homicide*	Suicide	Accident	Unknown	Total*
1979	1,644	1,220	722	112	3,698
1980	1,730	1,212	686	105	3,733
1981	1,647	1,211	602	113	3,573
1982	1,484	1,207	549	77	3,317
1983	1,231	1,149	511	60	2,951
1984	1,274	1,112	552	77	3,015
1985	1,339	1,256	517	72	3,184
1986	1,529	1,292	469	72	3,362
1987	1,582	1,280	466	80	3,408
1988	1,961	1,386	543	91	3,981
1989	2,384	1,379	563	71	4,397
1990	2,858	1,474	538	71	4,941
1991	3,264	1,436	549	95	5,344
1992	3,351	1,426	500	90	5,367
1993	3,647	1,460	526	104	5,737
1994	3,608	1,565	510	137	5,820
1995	3,272	1,450	440	115	5,277
1996	2,857	1,309	374	92	4,632

*Includes firearm deaths by legal (police) intervention and does not include child deaths from air rifles.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics
Calculations for 1979-1993 by NCHS, Office of Analysis, Epidemiology and Health Promotion. Calculations for 1994 through 1996 by Children's Defense Fund from data provided by NCHS.

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Firearm deaths of children and teens, ages 0–19, by age, race,* and cause, 1996

Age	All firearm deaths		Homicide		Suicide		Accident		Unknown intent	
	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black
Under 1	4	7	4	5	0	0	0	2	0	0
1–4	40	33	30	25	0	0	8	7	2	1
5–9	57	32	38	22	1	0	17	10	1	0
10–14	344	147	133	102	133	22	70	23	8	0
15–19	2,030	1,757	889	1,493	946	150	153	78	42	36
Total	**2,475**	**1,976**	**1,094**	**1,647**	**1,080**	**172**	**248**	**120**	**53**	**37**

*NCHS unpublished tabulations present data for Whites and Blacks, but not for other races or ethnic groups.
Source: National Center for Health Statistics
Calculations by Children's Defense Fund

Championing consumer protection for guns

Nearly nine out of every 10 Americans say that all new handguns should have trigger locks so children can't fire them. Eight out of 10 gun owners agree.

The *New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)* reported this finding Sept. 17, along with other survey results showing overwhelming support for improving consumer standards for guns. According to the poll by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago,

- 71 percent favor requiring modifications that would personalize new handguns so that only their owners can fire them.
- 73 percent want to require external indicators that will show whether a gun is loaded.
- Of gun owners, 59 percent and 60 percent, respectively, also support instituting these two requirements.

The survey provides "evidence that the majority of Americans want to see guns treated and regulated as consumer products," wrote David Hemenway of Harvard School of Public Health in an *NEJM* editorial. Citing how technological improvements to cars since the 1950s worked in concert to reduce the number of motor vehicle fatalities per mile by more than 75 percent, Hemenway proposed that reasonable steps to make firearms safer and keep them out of the wrong hands could also reduce gun injuries.

"The safety of virtually every consumer product is regulated by federal or state government. The conspicuous exception is the gun, which, per minute of exposure, is probably the most dangerous of all such products," wrote Hemenway. "Unfortunately, because firearms have been deliberately exempted from the oversight of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, we are in the indefensible position of having stronger consumer-protection standards for toy guns—and teddy bears—than for real guns."

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One step for children

Vote Nov. 3!

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CDF Reports

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CDF Reports

Marian Wright Edelman,
President

November 1998
Volume 19, Number 11

Congress does not act on juvenile crime bill, giving new hope for justice

Children across the country received a much-needed reprieve in October: The 105th Congress failed to pass S.10, a bill that would have, among other things, rolled back protections for children, putting them in adult jails and exposing them to adult criminals.

"This defeat is an important victory for children, and it's a marvelous demonstration of what can be accomplished when people exercise their power," said the Rev. Dr. Prathia Hall, chair of the Black Community Crusade for Children's (BCCC) Black Church Initiative.

The BCCC, with CDF and other child advocates, campaigned for two years to educate members of Congress that communities need tough, smart, and fair responses to juvenile crime and violence—not misguided legislation, such as S.10, that would put children in danger and do little to prevent crime.

The campaign was not an easy one, as the rhetoric of fear often interfered with reason and with proven strategies to reduce crime and violence. Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-Va.) reported that many members were "more intent on using politically popular slogans to legislate than they were on reducing youth crime." Scott supported a proposal that included more resources to reduce juvenile crime, such as after-school programs and gang prevention programs.

CDF and the BCCC have long endorsed such crime prevention investments, along with the following:

- strong juvenile courts to hold children accountable for their actions and to get them back on the right track;
- common-sense regulations to keep guns out of the hands of children and those who would harm them;
- equal justice for *all* children, no matter their race, ethnicity, sex, or class.

To get the message out about what is necessary to reduce violence in children's lives, BCCC and CDF had coordinated a range of events, from a Lobby Day in which ministers and youths spoke out on Capitol Hill and at the White House to rallies led by young children from Freedom Schools—comprehensive summer and after-school enrichment programs that BCCC coordinates. The team effort also included letter-

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Congress does not act on juvenile crime bill, giving new hope for justice
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writing campaigns, media coverage from New York City to Sacramento, Calif., sermons, and alliances among unlikely partners.

"The bill [S.10] was so problematic that it drew fierce opposition not only from child advocates, but from many of those who would have had to implement the policies it called for," said Kim Wade, CDF's violence prevention coordinator. Because of the harm S.10 would cause children and the cost it would impose on states—as well as its disconnection with what's working to bring down crime and violence—prosecutors, police, governors, state legislators, religious leaders, child advocates, and others raised serious questions about S.10.

As a result, in October, members of Congress started negotiations that included the principles child advocates have been calling for. However, time ran out before a final bill could be negotiated. "We have a great opportunity," said Wade, "a chance to start fresh with the next Congress and create legislation that helps keep children safe and out of trouble.

"Advocates have every reason to celebrate, but now is not the time to take a break," she said. "Thank those members of Congress who spoke up for children and took their needs seriously, and make those needs known to the new members."

"At the same time, advocates need to educate state and local policy makers," said Jesselyn McCurdy, program coordinator for the BCCC's Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Leadership Council. "We have heard a Texas state legislator say that 11-year-olds should be eligible for the death penalty. Although there have been declines in children committing violent crimes, we are seeing some states propose policies that would throw away the lives of children, while not doing nearly enough to actually prevent crime."

Invest in children to reduce crime

"Investment in children . . . will cut the need for investment in prisons later," said Attorney General Janet Reno to an audience of about 1,700 crime prevention activists and law enforcement

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Arkansans debate how to handle children who murder

In March, Arkansas and the rest of the United States reeled at the violent deaths of four young girls and their pregnant teacher at the hands of 11- and 13-year-old boys with an arsenal of guns. The tragedy has prompted Arkansans to review how they want to deal with children who kill.

Already, two state legislators have drafted bills that do away with any and all age limits for treating children as adults. These bills, said child advocate Paul Kelly of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families (AACF), give prosecutors full discretion to try cases of capital murder and murder in the first degree in an adult court *no matter how young the child is*.

Currently, Arkansas law gives prosecutors the discretion to try 14-year-olds as adults. While the state legislature is deciding what measures it wants to support, the governor's office is also investigating policy recommendations. As this issue went to press, a subcommittee of the Governor's Working Group on Juvenile Justice was calling for children as young as age 10 to be eligible for "blended sentences" and held subject to "extended juvenile jurisdiction for Capital Murder and Murder in the First Degree."

"This means a child of 10 who commits murder would receive both a juvenile sentence and an adult sentence," said Kelly, explaining that when the child becomes an adult, he can petition the judge to revoke the adult sentence. Ultimately, however, this policy could result in a child of 10 never leaving prison.

Although one might suppose that the adult sentence could not go into effect until the child turned 18 or 21, this is not the case. Explained Kelly, "At any time along the way, the child's behavior could trigger a hearing that then could impose the adult sentence." The child would have to follow a rehabilitative treatment plan, and any violation places him in jeopardy. "The violations could be anything from not showing up for drug treatment to spitting at a guard when you're 12," added Kelly.

And even if the child makes it through his juvenile sentence without instigating a hearing, he still might have to serve the adult sentence if the judge chooses not to revoke the penalty.

Society recognizes children's limited mental, emotional, and developmental skills when it comes to voting, getting married, engaging in enforceable contracts, operating a motor vehicle, or getting a tattoo. In the same vein, children's actions should not be judged by or held to the same standards as an adult, even if they commit a horrible act of violence, according to a position statement Arkansas Advocates released in September.

The statement recommends that children ages 10 to 13 be held under juvenile jurisdiction up to age 25. This means their actual time served would run 10 to 15 years—which is equivalent to the sentences served by many adult murderers. It also recommends that although youths ages 14 and older should be eligible to receive blended sentences, they should receive a maximum term of years, not life without parole.

It is essential that we provide rehabilitation for those children who commit murder and address the underlying reasons behind the violence to prevent more tragedies, said Kelly. "We need to provide solutions, not just add to the problems. That's what we do all the time, impose a rule and a sanction and walk away. It's adults copping out and refusing to take responsibility."

For more information, contact Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, 103 E. 7th Street, Suite 931, Little Rock, AR 72201; 501-371-9678; or visit www.aradvocates.org on the Web.

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A Voice for Children

by CDF President Marian Wright Edelman

Take time out for children's good deeds and needs

There's a saying that "bad press is better than no press." For children, that couldn't be further from the truth. Because of excessive news coverage of youth crime, especially in local reports, the violent actions of a few children overshadow the accomplishments of the many.

Not all journalists are at fault, of course, but media hype has fueled hysteria so that adults now fear young people, especially Black and Latino teens. By demonizing children, the media has set the stage for revenge instead of rehabilitation. We end up with misguided policy proposals such as the national crime bill and state recommendations for imposing life sentences on children as young as 10.

In reality, children have far more to fear from adults. Nine times as many children suffer abuse and neglect from their families than commit a violent crime. Seven out of 10 youths murdered between ages 12 and 17 are killed by *adults*. Of those murdered before their twelfth birthday, nine out 10 die at the hand of an *adult*.

In the real world, most youths shine as a blessing. They're achieving in school and pitching in to help their families and improve their communities. But theirs aren't the faces we tend to see on television and in the newspaper. Too often their good deeds and their needs go unnoticed.

According to one newspaper editor, it takes "a multiple murder to get front page attention for most children's issues." Dale Kunkel of the University of California at Santa Barbara found in 1994 that 48 percent of television coverage and 40 percent of newspaper coverage that dealt with children focused on crime and violence. Only 4 percent reported on children's needs as they relate to poverty, welfare, and child care—even though by addressing these needs, we can prevent youth violence.

Although the media coverage of youth violence has gone up, the actual number of youth arrests has gone down—12 percent since 1994. Of those who were arrested, 19 out of 20 were charged with a *nonviolent* crime.

We need to focus on how we can prevent youth violence and crime, but we also need to make sure that the truth is told. We have much to celebrate and appreciate about America's youth, such as the lowest overall teen birth rate since 1988 and the lowest rate for Black teens since 1980.

I am so pleased that child advocate Rosie O'Donnell is using her television show to salute young people's accomplishments. Likewise, community organizations and corporations are sponsoring CDF's Beat the Odds celebrations in 15 cities, awarding scholarships, summer jobs, and—in some cases—computers. Every community needs to affirm the success of young people who overcome tremendous adversities and stay in school.

At a 1998 Beat the Odds celebration in Memphis, a teen thanked the adults in her life, some of whom had started out as complete strangers. She said, "You're the angels who saved me and lifted me up when I had fallen down."

It's time for all U.S. adults to become angels who help children mature into compassionate human beings and productive citizens. We must change the odds against children so they don't have to struggle so hard to succeed. We must convince the media to publish more good news about children and how we can meet their needs, and we must support policies that prevent youth crime so there's even less bad news to report. And by all means we must let America's youth know that the good they are doing is worthwhile, not only for themselves but for all of society.

Poverty stats reveal some good news, more bad news

The good news first: Census Bureau figures released in late September show that incomes for U.S. families rose overall in 1997 and the number of children living in poverty in America declined slightly.

Yet despite a strong U.S. economy, there is bad news. Seven out of 10 poor children (9.6 million children, or 71 percent) lived in a family in which someone worked—up sharply from 61 percent in 1993. A record-high number of working families with children were poor—in other words, even though at least one adult worked, the families still remained impoverished.

In addition, for the second year in a row, there was an increase in the number of working families with children who are struggling to get by on incomes below one-half of the federal poverty line. (This line varies by family size. For a three-person family, half of the poverty line was $6,401 a year, equivalent to $123 per week.)

In 1997, 1.2 million working families with children (not counting the self-employed) lived in such extreme poverty—up by 217,000 families, or 20 percent, since 1995. The overall number of children living below one-half of the poverty line (regardless of family work status) also rose for the second year in a row. In 1997, 6.4 million children had family incomes this low, up from 6.3 million in 1996 and 6.0 million in 1995.

Welfare to work . . . or woe?

"Many children and families are falling deeper into poverty even though at least one adult is working," said CDF Family Income Director Deborah Weinstein. This holds true, she said, for families who have never depended on government assistance, as well as those who are striving to leave the welfare rolls to comply with the 1996 welfare law.

"These findings suggest that just because people are working does not automatically mean they are earning what is necessary to feed, house, and clothe their children," said Weinstein.

"These findings suggest that just because people are working does not automatically mean they are earning what is necessary to feed, house, and clothe their children."

Most of the job growth for recent welfare recipients from March 1990 to March 1998 involved jobs paying wages far below the poverty line for a three-person family, according to a CDF analysis on earnings. Only 17 percent of the total job growth involved above-poverty earnings, whereas 66 percent involved earnings at below three-quarters of the poverty line. CDF's Family Income Division is preparing an in-depth report on this analysis and related topics; titled *Welfare to What?*, the report is slated for release in late November.

While statistics such as these paint a bleak enough picture, it's important to recognize that they still do not capture the full scope of hardships that families are facing, said Weinstein. A National Academy of Sciences panel of experts recommended in 1995 that the poverty rate should be calculated by including family work expenses like child care as well as cash-like benefits such as food stamps. However, the Census Bureau has not yet determined how best to account for these factors.

"Now is the time to help families who are working but still having to struggle to get by, if we want them to stay employed in the long run and raise successful children," said Weinstein. "Families need more child care so they can keep their jobs, and they need more wage supports, like the earned

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Table 1 **Child Poverty**

Poor children in working families, 1989—1997

(Families where someone worked at least part time, part year)

	Number* poor in working families	Percentage of poor in working families	Working poor as a percentage of all poor children
1997	9,581	14.7%	71%
1996	9,471	14.7	69
1995	9,342	14.6	67
1994	9,414	15.0	64
1993	9,163	14.9	61
1992	8,618	14.4	62
1991	8,300	14.4	61
1990	8,052	13.9	64
1989	7,539	13.2	63

* In thousands

Note: Figures before 1993 exclude families headed by members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

Special Report

Child Watch Visitation Program

Shedding light on children's real needs

John Rand toured a child care center for babies of teen moms at a Daytona, Fla., high school in December 1996. What he saw changed his life.

"In pretty short order, I was converted by the process and the people and the stories I learned that day," said Rand, 34, an insurance agent. "It struck me how hopeless a lot of the girls were. They were looking at life as adults when they were just 17 years old."

Rand's experience, part of a day-long Child Watch Visitation Program tour coordinated by the Volusia County Child Watch Coalition, transformed his perception of the circumstances facing many children and young people in his south Florida community. It also inspired him to action.

Photo © Philip Holman

Rand is now board president of the county's Healthy Start partnership, which seeks to improve prenatal and infant health care and ensure the healthy development of babies and toddlers from birth to age 3. He's also working to expose other community members to the Child Watch Visitation Program and its mission: helping others learn about children's needs from firsthand experience and then urging them to take action to address those needs (see "Creating new leadership for children" on page 10).

"Child Watch works well in that it really gives the community members a firm grasp of what's going on, of what the problems are, and of what some people are doing to solve them," Rand explained.

During his first Child Watch visit, Rand saw a makeshift high school known as Teen Parent East, which consisted of several trailers on the grounds of another county high school. He listened to a group of young moms discuss what it's like to juggle motherhood and high school. He toured the child care center where students leave their babies while attending class. And he talked individually with one of the teen mothers.

"You don't get the same sense of reality when you just hear or read about a program," said Rand.

Beyond the office and into the lives of children

"Child Watch visits touch people in a way statistics and data can't," said CDF Child Watch Visitation Program Director Karen Seaver Hill. "As a result, the program sparks real changes that make children's lives better—whether by mobilizing community resources, increasing volunteer power, or focusing energy on a legislative initiative."

Developed in 1990, the Child Watch Visitation Program gives executives, clergy, lawmakers, and other community

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Shedding light on children's real needs

(Continued from page 5)

leaders a chance to move beyond their offices, corporate boardrooms, and legislative chambers and into the real world of children and families.

With training and support from CDF, volunteers and advocates establish local Child Watch coalitions across the country, each with its own goals, focus, and format. About 100 Child Watch coalitions are active in 35 states (see map, page 9), highlighting a variety of concerns, including child care, after-school care, teen pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, foster care and adoption, child poverty, housing, and maternal and child health, to name just a few.

Regardless of what a coalition focuses on, however, the ultimate goal of Child Watch Visitation Programs is the same from community to community: improving the lives of children by promoting action on the local, state, and national levels.

The Child Watch Visitation Program uses four main approaches to accomplish this goal:

1. On-site visits to programs serving children and families;
2. Briefings by public policy experts and others in the field;
3. Written background materials;
4. Experiential activities.

Although programs tend to vary depending on a community's needs and the makeup of its coalition, a typical Child Watch visit lasts from four to eight hours and involves escorted tours through two or more child-serving settings, highlighting both problems and solutions. These visits might take people to child care centers, hospitals, juvenile detention centers, or foster care agencies. Participants usually hear from children and families themselves as well as from project directors or staff. Some Child Watch tours are designed to target a particular type of participant, such as business or religious leaders or members of certain civic organizations, while others reach out to a cross-section of community members.

Opening eyes in Norfolk, Va.

Sen. Stanley Walker (D–6th District) joined prominent Tidewater-area business leaders and special guest Ben Cohen of Ben & Jerry's Homemade on Oct. 6 for a Child Watch Visitation Program in Norfolk, Va. During an eye-opening journey highlighting the need for quality child care, a first stop at the Norfolk City Jail shocked participants as a young inmate (age 20) exemplified the ultimate price paid when investments aren't made in children at an early age.

Photo © Philip Holman

Norfolk City Jail inmate Antonio Tillery, age 20, addresses a group of Child Watch Visitation Program participants. "Spoil them with love and affection and attention . . . there's never too much," he offered when asked what advice he'd give professionals and others working with children to prevent them from following in his footsteps.

In addition, participants toured a corporate child care center run by USAA and witnessed the strong steps some businesses are taking to support working parents. The community leaders also learned about other measures such as flextime and resource and referral services, which can help employees meet their child care needs. Sen. Walker was so impressed by what he saw that he invited Child Watch coordinators to present their findings before the state child care commission.

"Child Watch is a unique advocacy tool that can be used to open people's eyes to problems they might not realize are having a tremendous impact on children and families in their own communities," said Hill. "Because Child Watch is so malleable, communities can adapt the program to meet their needs and to galvanize grassroots support around specific aims."

Raising public awareness of children's needs

Nashua, N.H., a mid-sized city, was ranked number one by *Money* magazine in its 11th annual "Best Places to Live in America" survey, released in July 1997. At the same time, however, the city's working poor were in the midst of a housing crisis. That October, the Nashua Child Watch Coalition held a visit designed to increase public awareness about the housing problems faced by families and children.

The tour took community members, including local city aldermen and a community development official, to a number of housing complexes. A stop at a well-run transitional housing facility for women and children illustrated how housing developments can meet the needs of low-income families struggling to afford high rents. But another site highlighted just the opposite. The group saw a deteriorating, trash-strewn complex covered with graffiti and holes in the walls, said Karen Goddard, a former Child Watch coalition coordinator. The buildings were soon to be condemned, but families were living there anyway, sharing electricity through a rigged apparatus of extension cords.

"It's very expensive to live here [in Nashua]," Goddard said. "Our Child Watch tour was a reality check for

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Shedding light on children's real needs

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people, that the city is only 'number one' if you have a job with decent wages."

After the tour, participants discussed possible solutions to the city's lack of affordable housing. "People really opened up and shared their stories and ideas," said Goddard. "It definitely made an impact."

A group of community leaders and students in Stillwater, Okla., used a Child Watch visit to dramatize the plight of abused children and to get people thinking about ways to help. The program, held in April, gave community members an inside look at the journey taken by a young victim of incest once the abuse is reported.

Participants followed behind a police cruiser as the "victim," played by a young actress, was shuttled from emergency room to police station to court to recount the painful details of the sexual abuse she suffered. The tour was developed to rally support behind a proposed child advocacy center where law enforcement, medical emergency, family court, and social services would all be located under one roof. The group in Stillwater is working hand-in-hand with community leaders in Oklahoma City who were successful in establishing a similar center in their city.

The Tucson, Ariz., Child Watch Coalition has a special focus on after-school care.

In Athens, Ga., an elementary school principal relayed the story of a local 10-year-old boy who was beaten to death by his mother and her boyfriend after being suspended from school for stealing $5 from a classmate. The account helped participants understand how early childhood development and intervention into the lives of children can prevent stressful situations from escalating into crises.

The shocking story and subsequent visits to a midwifery clinic, a family support center, an early education program, and a prekindergarten illustrated the importance of services designed to spot troubles early on, provide mothers and fathers with parenting skills, and prevent young children from falling through the cracks.

Inspiring action on behalf of children

A tiny baby weighing just 15 ounces moved a group of Knox County, Tenn., citizens to action. Touring the University of Tennessee (UT) Medical

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Lending a hand in California's children's health insurance enrollment campaign

One million children in California lack health coverage. As advocates turn to the task of helping eligible families sign up their children for health coverage under the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), CDF's Child Watch Visitation Program is poised to become an active partner in health outreach efforts statewide.

"We're using Child Watch as one of our tools to help organize advocates," said Colleen Montoya, a Berkeley, Calif.,-based regional trainer for the Child Watch Visitation Program. "Child Watch will serve as a way to both identify needs and to educate people about what they can do."

Since California enacted Healthy Families and expanded Medi-Cal earlier this year, CDF, Children Now, and The Children's Partnership have been collaborating through the 100% Campaign to reach the goal of insuring all eligible California children. In coming months, Child Watch will complement these efforts with targeted trainings to encourage people to share information and develop coalitions at the community level.

"Child Watch presents one opportunity for the 100% Campaign to reach out to the community," Montoya said. "It's a very hands-on tool that people can use to educate communities about the issue. I think the attraction of Child Watch is that it's something really tangible that people can get involved in."

Child Watch promises to play a key role in CHIP enrollment during 1999, says Montoya, because it can easily be adapted to suit a community's individual needs, and it engages people who aren't already child advocates.

It will be instrumental in helping communities to determine how many local children have no insurance, to identify what obstacles stand in the way of families receiving insurance, and to discover what communities can do to overcome these barriers. With these questions answered, Child Watch coalitions can then undertake specific activities designed to accelerate CHIP outreach and enrollment. Some communities, for example, might need people to distribute program information, flyers, and hotline numbers. Others might need people to translate information into other languages or to help parents complete application forms.

For more information about Child Watch and CHIP enrollment in California, call Colleen Montoya at 510-841-2790 or e-mail childwatch@aol.com.

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Shedding light on children's real needs

(Continued from page 7)

Center's neonatal intensive care unit, they learned how community problems such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and lack of prenatal care contribute to the prevalence of low birthweight babies. They also realized they had to do something about it.

"I think that little body of that baby shocked people so much that he has embodied the issue of prenatal care to many of them," said Ann Ince, a coalition co-chair and advocate at Tennessee Voices for Children. Since that December 1997 tour, a group has been meeting monthly to talk about ways the hospital and community can partner to provide prenatal care to underserved populations. Plans are already underway to improve how health data specifically related to birth records is collected at all area hospitals, said Ince. The medical center's Dr. Charles Mercer is also working with county executives to set up a prenatal care outreach clinic in East Knoxville.

"We've been able to get some really nice community involvement around prenatal care," said Ince. "It's a way that UT Medical Center could provide outreach into the community. There is no prenatal physician in the east part of town. It would add a very crucial service in an area of great need."

The Milwaukee Child Watch Coalition this spring urged community members to focus on the child care needs of families who are transitioning from welfare to work. The tour brought participants first to a Welfare to Work Job Center, where they experienced for themselves the challenge of locating child care and employment. Afterward, they visited a child care center, where local parents expressed their frustrations with finding child care while moving off welfare.

Members of the Pittsburgh Child Watch Coalition have also been able to inspire action—securing, among other things, a promise from the county government to build a new juvenile court facility (see box at right).

(See page 10)

Pittsburgh group wins improvements for foster children

In the Greater Pittsburgh area, more than 9,000 children are legal dependents of the child welfare system. About 800 children languish in foster care for an average of four and a half years because the overburdened system cannot move fast enough to either place them for adoption or return them to their birth families. What's more, as three judges and one courtmaster struggle to handle the constant backlog of dependency and delinquency hearings, the small juvenile court building grows more crowded and less safe.

For years, few people beyond the courthouse were aware of the poor conditions facing many of the area's children. But thanks to the focused efforts of the Pittsburgh Child Watch Coalition, community leaders now know about the longstanding problems and are actively working to correct them.

Recently, the county promised to build a bigger juvenile court facility. And several local foundations have agreed to pay for three new hearing officer positions over the next two years to reduce the backlog of cases. In addition, new adoptive and long-term foster families are being recruited to provide more stable homes for many children in Pittsburgh and its surrounding county.

These concrete results came about after more than four years of hard work by the coalition, which is made up of 135 individuals representing about 50 organizations. Since its initial foster care Child Watch tour in June 1996, the group has mounted eight Child Watch visits to grab the attention of influential community members—including lawmakers, corporate executives, foundation officials, and the media.

During the most recent tour, participants got a feel for problems encountered regularly at the old courthouse, where as many as 200 children spill out of waiting rooms designed to hold a maximum of 40 people. "Our families must wait outside in the bad weather as they line up to walk through the building's turnstile because it's so crowded," said Vicki Sirockman, co-coordinator of the Pittsburgh Child Watch Coalition. "On a recent tour, there was a child with a cast on his leg who had to sit on the floor because there was no room. People were stepping and tripping over him. Our judges are so swamped [and must turn over the cases so quickly], that in an hour's time we saw five or six kids come through and have their hearings."

These tours sparked serious discussions among coalition members, foundations, judges, child welfare and foster care agency directors, and other community leaders about how to fix the problems. Ongoing publicity kept up the momentum, said Sirockman. These community members went on to lobby the local government for a commitment to move the courthouse to a larger and better-equipped space. They also persuaded a group of foundations to invest in a Juvenile Court Masters Project so additional hearing officers can be hired.

This January, the coalition is teaming up with a local public television station to air four broadcasts designed to recruit families so more children can find permanent homes. The coalition is also pressing the county to increase investment in family support services, which parents urgently need to overcome problems while their children temporarily remain in the child welfare system.

The coalition has been able to make a difference because it determined a clear set of goals and went after them one by one. "The Pittsburgh Child Watch Coalition has been able to effectively channel its advocacy efforts and mark clear milestones," said CDF Child Watch Visitation Program Director Karen Seaver Hill. "Their hard work and ongoing commitment to Child Watch is helping change things for the better for that area's children and young people."

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Coalition key to success in New Jersey county

To learn more about several Monmouth County, N.J., programs for families in crisis, community members did more than tour the facilities. On site visits last June, they applied for and received bags of groceries at a local food pantry, struggled to complete a complex application for KidCare—New Jersey's new children's health insurance program—learned about teen parents' child care needs, and saw infants suffering from Shaken Baby Syndrome. Along with providing these eye-opening learning opportunities, the Child Watch Visitation Program illustrated how parent support and education services can help reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

"We had a fabulous experience," said Sher Van Fossen, chair of the Child Watch Coalition of Monmouth County. "People have no idea until they go on a tour—it's so easy for people to insulate themselves inside their own homes."

At the heart of the Monmouth County program's success is its 44-member-strong coalition, made up of representatives from 27 local agencies and organizations. "The people we have in our coalition are really a great cross-section of human service providers in Monmouth County," Van Fossen said. Coalition members have hands-on experience working with the homeless, the hungry, the abused, and those coping with substance abuse addiction. There are representatives from local hospitals and religious congregations, the United Way, the Girl Scouts, and other organizations.

One result of this alliance's unified commitment to children through Child Watch is that local organizations that typically fight for the same foundation dollars are now setting aside their individual agendas. Instead, they are joining forces to seek funding as a coalition whose mission is to help improve the lives of children. Additionally, coalition members have donated time and resources to generate publicity about Child Watch events through press releases, electronic listservs, and other media tools.

"When we put these people together as a team, they just blossomed; it created a very giving and resourceful atmosphere," Van Fossen said. "We could never have done it without a collaborative environment."

For communities hoping to use the Child Watch Visitation Program model to raise awareness of children's needs, inspire action on behalf of children, and create new leadership for children, being part of a coalition is critical, Van Fossen explained.

"In order to really have an impact, you have to band together and work together," Van Fossen added. "It's the concept of synergy, where if you blend together you're stronger as a whole than as separate parts."

Child Watch Visitation Program across the country

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Shedding light on children's real needs
(Continued from page 8)

Creating new leadership for children

Through the Child Watch Visitation Program, John Rand has inspired Volusia County leaders to get more involved in child advocacy efforts. He organizes Child Watch tours for members of Leadership Daytona, which draws together local business people for regular civic education events.

"Child Watch gives exposure to an influential group of up-and-coming people who are leaders in the community," Rand said. "It provides a taste of what's going on in the community and encourages participation."

Community leaders who participated in a recent Child Watch visit through Leadership Daytona joined forces this year by signing a letter to the county school board in support of increased funding for the teen parent program. The funding eventually was approved. In addition, a fire chief who participated in the program offered to donate free smoke detectors to any local facility that provides prenatal care.

In San Diego, Child Watch has served as a mechanism to inform and engage community leaders since 1994. Local coordinators were able to capitalize on the growing momentum for quality, affordable child care highlighted during this year's Stand For Children day by hosting a program on June 1.

Participants visited a family child care home, a subsidized full-day center, a Head Start site open until midnight, and a subsidized child care center located in a Section 8 housing complex for low-income families.

"What was important was that the participants got to see the variety of settings, because they didn't really know what child care was all about," said Michele Soltero, immediate past president of the San Diego Association for the Education of Young Children.

"We had people actually meeting and talking with the parents receiving child care assistance. They saw firsthand how these services are helping families and how child care really provides them balance in their lives to be able to go to work and be self-sufficient," Soltero explained.

Michigan's Wayne County Child Watch Coalition urges adults to take "A Walk in Kids' Shoes."

As a result of going on the tour, a representative from the Chula Vista mayor's office has recommended that the city launch its own Child Watch initiative next spring. Soltero said other participants have followed up by inquiring about ways to involve their community groups and churches in improving children's lives.

"Child Watch is a way for community members to learn very quickly about current issues. It's a very good tool," Soltero said, because it is so revealing for community leaders.

"Just listening to the stories and seeing things firsthand makes a very big difference," she said. "Then people have something they can grasp. It leaves an impression."

For more information about what coalitions are doing in your area or to learn how to launch a Child Watch initiative in your community, contact the Child Watch Division at 202-628-8787 or visit www.childrensdefense.org/childwatch.html on the Web.

Get more Child Watch information

❑ **YES,** I want to learn more about how the Child Watch Visitation Program can help my local advocacy efforts. Please send me information about current activities in my area, or about how to start a local Child Watch coalition if none exists.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail address _____

Mail this coupon in an envelope to Child Watch Division, 25 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20001; call 202-628-8787; fax 202-662-3540; or e-mail cwatch@childrensdefense.org

Contact CDF to get started

CDF provides a variety of resources to help coalitions launch and sustain active Child Watch Visitation Programs in their communities:

- On-site training
- Organizing materials
- Ongoing technical assistance and support
- Networking with Child Watch initiatives nationwide.

For more information, contact the Child Watch Division at 202-628-8787 or visit www.childrensdefense.org/childwatch.html on the Web.

CDF at Work

From computer dating services to computer donating services?

CDF has partnered with SERVEnet, a project of Youth Service America, to bring matchmaking to a new level—an online service now links nonprofit organizations with people who want to donate their time and energy.

By registering for a free account, nonprofits can publicize their volunteer openings, job listings, news, events, and more on the Internet to connect with volunteers and fellow nonprofit professionals. Every posting includes a link back to the organization's own Web site, a contact e-mail or phone number, and an optional logo image.

Individuals who are interested in volunteering use the site to find opportunities that match their interests, skills, experience, and time constraints. In addition to allowing users to type in their zip code so they can investigate openings in their community or close by, SERVEnet provides a database in which volunteers can fill out, free of charge, a personal search agent profile. Volunteers can then visit the site regularly to see what new listings match their profiles, or they can opt to have SERVEnet notify them of any suitable opportunities via e-mail.

CDF encourages its friends and affiliates to list the volunteer opportunities they have available—and to investigate positions where they can lend their time and talents.

For more information, visit www.childrensdefense.org/jobs/servenet on the Web.

Opening doors for health insurance in California

CDF opened its first California office Oct. 29. In Oakland, the local office provides CDF with a great base for helping the state's working families get health coverage for their children through the new Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and expansions to Medi-Cal, the state's health program.

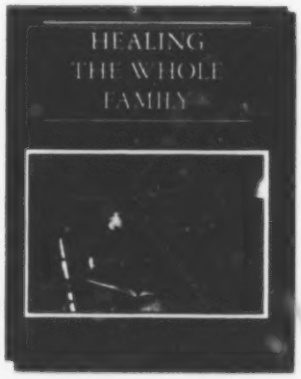
Three CDF staff members have already begun working with Children Now and The Children's Partnership on the 100% Campaign to make sure that children eligible for CHIP get enrolled, to expand health coverage for uninsured children who do not yet qualify for CHIP, to make the children's health coverage system more family friendly, and to build public awareness of the health care needs of California's children.

The office opened its doors with a celebration led by CDF President **Marian Wright Edelman**, who was on hand for the State of the World Forum, where she and other "change makers" were being honored. In addition, the open house included national and state children's advocates who have been working with CDF on the CHIP campaign, as well as longtime friends of CDF and local political officials and community activists with whom CDF's branch office will work closely to ensure that the state's children get the healthy start in life they need and deserve.

For more information, contact CDF's California Child Health Policy Director Deena Lahn, 101 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, 510-663-2984.

Breaking intergenerational cycles of dysfunction

CDF's report *Healing the Whole Family: A Look at Family Care Programs* investigates innovative residential programs for families struggling with substance abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, and teen parenting. The report features 50 family care programs around the country that offer supervised living arrangements and intensive services to support the parent, the child, and the parent and child as a family unit in order to promote child safety and family stability.



For more information, see the Special Report "Family Care Programs Help Save Two Generations Under One Roof" in the Aug. 1998 issue of CDF Reports. *The executive summary of* Healing *is now available at www.childrensdefense.org on the Web. To order* Healing the Whole Family, *$7.95, contact CDF Fulfillment (see box below).*

CDF Fulfillment ordering information

All orders for CDF publications and products that total less than $25 must be prepaid. CDF accepts Visa, Discover, MasterCard, and American Express. Bulk purchases can qualify for discounts: Contact the Director of Fulfillment.

Include $2 for shipping and handling of first item and $1 for each additional item. Sales tax (5.75 percent) applies only to shipments to Washington, D.C.

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Necessary

News from the Black Community Crusade for Children

Serving the needs of children, on the bench and beyond

What can judges do to help turn around the lives of youths who are troubled and violent? How can they hold alternative schools accountable so that children who have been expelled from the regular school system don't fail to learn? Why are minority youths' mental health needs frequently misdiagnosed—and what do judges need to know to protect these children?

These are just some of the questions that Black juvenile and family court judges from around the nation explored at the 1998 Judges' Fall Summit, "Preparing Our Future: Creating a Better Justice System for Our Children." The Black Community Crusade for Children's (BCCC) Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Leadership Council (JLC) sponsored the three-day series of workshops and panel discussions, held Sept. 16–18 in Washington, D.C.

More than a dozen experts shared their latest research on such topics as child and adolescent development and described practical approaches to the most critical problems facing juvenile court judges today. To improve the juvenile justice system, the judges began collaborating on a list of recommendations that they plan to finalize by the end of November.

The recommendations grow out of a collective desire to do more than arbitrate from the bench—or what Judge Veronica Morgan-Price, JLC co-chair, called "sitting on high and looking low." Throughout the conference, the judges sought out and shared ideas for how to be effective leaders in both their courtrooms and in their communities.

Ensuring proper mental health treatment for children

"The view that jails are filled with children who deserve to be punished is a fallacy," asserted Michael Faenza at the Judges' Leadership Council's Fall Summit. Faenza, the president of the National Mental Health Association, related his recent tour of Louisiana's Tallulah Correctional Center for Youth with Senator Paul Wellstone (D–Minn.). "There were little itty-bitty children in orange jumpsuits, with guards in military uniforms yelling at them," said Faenza.

Photo © Sherri Byrand

Michael Faenza

In just one year, 140 staff were fired from Tallulah for abuse, Faenza said, adding that the privately owned correctional facility has been cited repeatedly by the U.S. Justice Department for civil rights abuses and not providing adequate mental health treatment. For instance, during his tour, Faenza interviewed three young inmates who were on psychotropic drugs for their psychiatric disorders. They only saw a psychiatrist every six months, although closer follow-up for such serious medications is essential.

The problems uncovered at Tallulah have been numerous and of great consequence to the youths who are being abused there, but they only scrape the surface of what is happening nationwide. Said Faenza, "More and more, young people with mental disorders are being criminalized, and the majority are people of color."

Much needs to be done to ensure that children are properly diagnosed and get the treatment that they need. To help reduce the number of children who are being misdiagnosed, judges must review the credentials of the people who provide mental health assessments. Likewise, judges must take an active role in assessing treatment and correctional centers to ensure they are appropriate for placement.

During the summit, Judge Arthur Burnett Sr. of Washington, D.C., highlighted a pilot program that the American Psychological Association would like to expand and replicate across the country. In the nation's capital, seven doctoral candidates in psychology work full time with young offenders and develop meaningful, individualized programs that can prevent recidivism.

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Putting children's interests before profits

"When profit is the first motive and treatment is the second or the last, you'll have trouble," warned retired Judge Frank A. Orlando about the dangers of privatization, that children end up paying the price for programs that seek to turn a profit. He and other participants called for judges to examine how for-profit programs in their area are serving children—or not serving them, as the case may be.

For-profit programs for juvenile offenders could raise big revenues for adults by increasing the number of children while keeping down the costs of caring for them. "Just because a program is named Happy Valley Farm doesn't mean that it is going to help children," said Orlando, the director of the Center for the Study of Youth Policy at Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law School.

Even though certain programs might not be in the children's best interest, many lawyers are giving up their minor clients' rights to get them enrolled.

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Serving the needs of children, on the bench and beyond

(Continued from page 12)

Orlando called for judges to take the lead in ensuring that children get the programming they actually need.

Children are even more at the mercy of the court, said Orlando, because less than half who come before the bench have the benefit of appropriate counsel. "It's very easy [for police, parents, and others] to convince children to waive their rights," said Orlando, who asked his fellow judges to take a stand on this issue. "You must say you will not proceed without legal representation for the child, unless you have confidence that the parent or guardian has the child's best interest at heart."

Keeping the light in children's eyes

"As I sit and listen from the bench, I've been stricken with horror by the testimony," said the Hon. Maxine White, a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge who presides over trials in which young people stand charged with first-degree murder, sexual assault, armed robbery, or other violent offenses. "I'm horrified not only because of the loss of life and the toll taken on the community, but also because of the appearance of someone much older than his years, hardened and with all the light gone from his eyes. I ask myself, 'What happened in his life to make him this way?' "

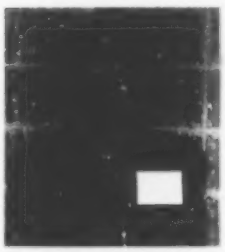


Photo © Sherri Byrand

Judge Maxine White

Reporting that she has sent young people to prison for the rest of their lives, White challenges society to do what is necessary to save other juveniles from the same fate. Her new book, *Letters from Prison: A Cry for Justice*, co-written by psychiatrist George B. Palermo, calls for a more rational use of imprisonment.

Said White, "Those who really threaten the community should be treated differently from those who do not—but it's been all at the same level." She called the current trend "lumpology—everybody is being lumped in the same category of badness."

White closed a panel discussion on solutions to youth violence, joining Regis Lane, a police officer and executive director of Minorities in Law Enforcement, and Suzan Stauffer, the program manager of Safe Alternatives and Violence Education.

The session allowed the judges to examine the range of problems leading to youth violence and incarceration. Lane related how racism and bias play a large role in why minority youths, particularly young Black males, represent such a large percentage of the jailed population. "Officers always have the discretion over whether to take in a youth or not," said Lane, pointing out that for a minor offense, the police could just as easily drive the child home and have a word with the parents. But with minority children this happens less frequently, sometimes because of racial bias on the part of the officer, sometimes because the youths feel that they are being disrespected and so "mouth off." Said Lane, "Other times, there's no place else for him to go . . . and there are no support services [available]."

The panelists and participants also discussed the high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder being seen among children. "Children are seeing violence in their homes and on their way to the corner store, school, and even church," said White.

Many young offenders are poor, substance abusers, primarily unsupported by their families, and/or have mental health problems that are not being addressed. The scope of the causes of youth violence call for a comprehensive approach, with judges take a leading role. Said White, "There will be no change unless we all work together."

Modeling good behavior, building meaningful partnerships

JLC co-chair Judge Arthur Burnett Sr. described the successes of a comprehensive community outreach program that judges have undertaken in Washington, D.C. In the last two years, the same time span of the judges' work, the number of juvenile offenses has dropped about 20 percent.

Judges have been offering themselves as role models and speaking at schools. "We're showing them that judges were once children just like them, that many of us were kids from the ghetto," said Burnett. In addition, the District's judges hold monthly meetings with schools to resolve problems around suspensions and truancy, allowing both agencies to work in a partnership for the sake of children, rather than be at odds with each other.

Burnett and his fellow judges have also been active in recruiting African American males to mentor first offenders to help them stay out of trouble, as well as enlisting professionals of both sexes and any race to serve as surrogate uncles and aunts. The judges also have become involved in spreading information about adopting foster children, to give these children a safe and secure home so they don't turn to juvenile crime. Said Burnett, "These children only need to know that someone cares."

In the same vein, the District's judges and others in the juvenile justice system are involved in establishing internships at dentist and doctor offices, auto shops, car dealerships, and other local businesses for youngsters 15 and older. Said Burnett, "I have had young children come to me and ask, 'Why do I have to wait until I am 15? I want to be a scientist or engineer—can't you find somebody to work with me?' "

At the summit Burnett announced his retirement from D.C. Superior Court. Rather than heading to a fishing hole or Florida, he will be working some 20 hours a week at CDF and BCCC to help ensure that children across the nation overcome the risks of poverty, racism, and crime in their neighborhoods.

Taking a proactive stance

The summit was particularly effective for helping judges to become proactive and share the information they learned with colleagues who were not there, said Judge Morgan-Price. "Some [of the judges who attended] have not encountered the charter issues of alternative schools and court involvement. Through the summit, they became aware of the problem before they have to deal with it directly." This head start is essential as privatization spreads across the country, reported Morgan-Price, increasing the threat that adults will profit from children's misery.

For more information, contact JLC Program Coordinator Jesselyn McCurdy at 202-662-3577.

Congress does not act on juvenile crime bill, giving new hope for justice
(Continued from page 2)

professionals from all 50 states, Europe, and South America.

As Congress was trying to finalize the crime bill, Reno highlighted a range of essential crime prevention strategies, from truancy prevention to conflict resolution education, from "educare"—child care with an educational component—to aftercare that helps youths adjust to their release from detention. Reno also cited the need for unconventional crime prevention tools such as early prenatal care, full access to health care for young children, and wide-ranging enforcement of child support—all of which give children the grounding they need to grow up to be healthy and productive citizens.

"The Attorney General's speech, along with the mid-October White House summit on school safety, offered a positive sign that the Clinton administration is listening to the messages of child advocates who have been working hard to reduce youth crime," said Wade. "However, advocates must ensure that the words are carried over into policy and actions that will benefit children and communities."

Make it harder for children to access guns

"If a juvenile crime bill is to truly help curb violence, it must make sure that children can't use guns to hurt themselves or others," said McCurdy. "We have effective strategies available, but they must be applied across the nation."

One model deserving of expansion, said McCurdy, is youth gun tracking because it plays an integral role in reducing youth crime. In 27 cities, special agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) work with local law enforcement to systematically identify and shut down illegal gun traffickers who are supplying juveniles with firearms.

The agents' efforts are part of a newly expanded Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative. This ATF pilot program grew out of the Boston Gun Project, in which the city police department combined forces with ATF agents to crack down on illicit gun trafficking.

"The Brady law stops criminals from buying guns legally, but it does not stop criminals and juveniles from buying guns off the books and off the streets," said Susan Ginsburg, explaining why gun tracking is an important complement to the Brady bill, which mandated background checks and waiting periods. A senior advisor in the Treasury Department's Office of the Undersecretary for Enforcement, Ginsburg described the success thus far: "Police departments are now engaged in understanding and disrupting the illegal gun market more than ever before." Currently, the ATF is producing its second-year youth gun crime interdiction report, which will discuss the improvements being made through gun tracking.

In the last days of its final session, the 105th Congress approved $27 million for the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, including $11 million for tracking guns used in crimes and $16 million to fund 162 special ATF agents, enough for six agents for each of 27 cities currently targeted for youth crime interdiction.

In late October, the International Association of Chiefs of Police passed a resolution that all police departments need to support comprehensive tracking of guns used in crimes.

In addition to tracking crime guns, effective gun regulation must keep children from accessing guns in their homes or those of friends or relatives. However, the word of gun manufacturers alone will not secure gun standards that can keep children safe, according to a new report, *Broken Promises: The Failure of the Trigger Lock "Deal" Between the Gun Industry and the White House* by the Violence Policy Center. The report refers to a promise 20 handgun manufacturers made to President Clinton that they would voluntarily provide child safety locks with every handgun they sell.

Although the manufacturers signed on to the agreement in October 1997, only four have followed through. And three of these were already providing the safety locks before the agreement.

"Congress used this voluntary agreement to argue against passing any regulations on child safety locks," said Wade. "Because the agreement has yet to lead to any meaningful change, it's time to deliver common-sense gun regulations that include—at a minimum—child safety locks with every handgun sold."

Keep children and communities safe

There's still much that needs to be done to make sure that the 106th Congress passes a tough, smart, and fair juvenile crime bill. Those who want to keep children and communities safe must rally behind the following approaches:

Stop crime before it starts

- Invest in what works to prevent violence, including healthy families, strong schools, and treatment for

(See page 15)

Putting juvenile crime into perspective

- Less than one-half of 1 percent of all youths are arrested for violent crimes. Five percent of youths are arrested overall.
- Children ages 12–17 are three times more likely to be victims of violence than are adults.
- Murders by youths *without* guns did not increase over the last decade, whereas murders by youths *with* guns quadrupled between 1987 and 1993.
- After rising from 1987, the rates of homicide committed by children ages 10–17 were down 31 percent between 1993 and 1996, the last year for which data are currently available.
- In a one-day count in 1996, 8,100 children were being held in local adult jails, a 20 percent increase from 1994.
- Compared wih youths in juvenile facilities, youths housed in adult jails and prisons are eight times more likely to commit suicide, five times more likely to be sexually assaulted, two times more likely to be assaulted by staff, and 50 percent more likely to be attacked with a weapon.

Congress does not act on juvenile crime bill, giving new hope for justice
(Continued from page 14)

mental health disorders and substance abuse problems—as well as prevention strategies that provide children with alternatives to getting in trouble or falling into harm's way, such as mentoring, safe activities after school, and summer jobs.
- Support policies such as child safety locks to make it harder for children to access guns.
- Support law enforcement efforts to break up illegal gun-dealing, including gun tracking initiatives and a sales limit of one gun a month per individual customer.

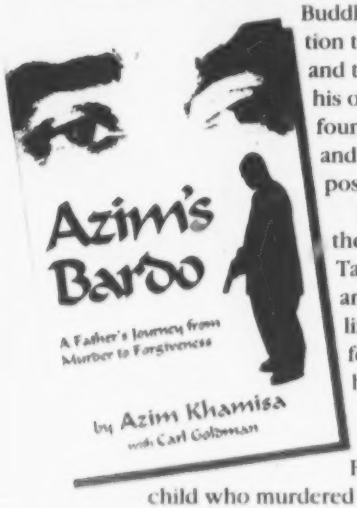
Hold children accountable and get them back on track
- Support a juvenile justice system that hands out swift consequences that fit the crime, while at the same time recognizes that no child is irredeemable. (See "Serving the needs of children" on page 12.)
- Advocate for successful juvenile court programs such as Operation Night Light in Boston, in which probation officers and the police have combined forces to keep a close eye on youths who are on probation.
- Endorse new restorative justice models in which young offenders are held accountable for making things right with the victims and the communities hurt by their actions, and in which they are given a chance to redeem themselves as contributing, responsible citizens.
- Ensure that children who are convicted of a crime, especially those in detention facilities, receive all the critical services they need.

(See page 16)

Transforming grief into meaningful action to save others

After an eighth-grader shot and killed Azim Khamisa's 20-year-old son for the pizzas Tariq was delivering, the grieving father did what for many might be unthinkable: He reached out to the family of his son's young murderer. And he searched for ways to help save other children not only from being victims of violence but also from being violent themselves.

Azim Khamisa chronicles his path to recovery in his book *Azim's Bardo*. During his "bardo," a Tibetan Buddhist concept for the transition time between one life state and the next, Khamisa overcame his overwhelming heartache and found the strength to forgive and transform his grief into positive action.



He wrote, "Working against the forces which resulted in Tariq's death brings quality and purpose back into my life. From the beginning, I felt there were victims at both ends of the gun."

Azim Khamisa now works closely with Ples Felix, the grandfather of the child who murdered Tariq. Together, they and others, including ex-offenders and former gang members, conduct Violence Impact Forums at elementary and middle schools through the Tariq Khamisa Foundation.

The goal of the foundation's forums, said Azim Khamisa, is "to send a simple, powerful chain of messages to young people: the impact of violence is terrible and irrevocable; violence is a *chosen* behavior; making that choice brings grim consequences; alternatives are always open."

The live forums provide a talk show format that's child-friendly, using a roving microphone and audience interaction. The children also view a video about Tariq's murder and its aftermath, including what happened to the young murderer Tony Hicks, who was the youngest person in California to ever be tried as an adult—he received 25 years to life in prison.

After the forum, the children participate in a tree- and flower-planting ceremony, called the "Garden of Life," to honor those in their lives that they have lost.

In addition to getting children to think about how they can handle a situation without resorting to violence, the Violence Impact Forums have the following goals:
- Provide support, assistance, and healing for children victimized by violence;
- Empower youths to establish support systems and effectively advocate for their own safety;
- Help children understand peer pressure and enable positive decision-making;
- Enhance children's sense of optimism and well-being, inspire hope and dreams for the future, critical thinking, and personal responsibility.

The typical forum includes an assessment component, to measure the children's change in attitudes toward violence and victimization. For example, before two Violence Impact Forums, 50 percent of the boys said they would seek revenge if someone killed their sibling; after, the figure was just 23 percent. Before the forums, 11 percent of the boys said they would advise a friend to join a gang and get a weapon if the friend was afraid of getting killed or hurt. Afterwards, only 1 percent said they would.

Currently, the foundation coordinates about six forums during the school year, with plans to expand further. It also works with other groups that want to consider using the model for their programs.

For more information, contact the Tariq Khamisa Foundation, 550 West C Street, Suite 1700, San Diego, CA 92101-3568; 619-277-5700; fax 619-595-1313; e-mail info@tkf.org. Azim's Bardo *is available through Rising Star Press in Los Altos, Calif.*

Congress does not act on juvenile crime bill, giving new hope for justice
(Continued from page 15)

including education and mental health counseling.
- Continue to take steps to ensure equal justice for children of all races and ethnicities, from the arrest stage through sentencing.

Reject what isn't working
- Children do not belong in adult jails and prisons, where they are far more likely to be subject to physical and sexual abuse.
- Children should not be placed in detention facilities for offenses that aren't crimes, such as running away or skipping school.
- Children's criminal records should not automatically be made public and shared with schools.

Ecumenical intervention helps conquer violence

"Where are the least, the lost, and the left out? And where are the people of God in relation to them?" These questions, said the Rev. Jeffrey L. Brown, get to the heart of the mission of Boston's Ten Point Coalition, for which he works.

The organization, now several years old and with a proven track record of success, united clergy and lay people in the quest to speak to the moral and spiritual roots of violence among inner-city youths. It is one of many programs in the nation that have been helping to reduce crime and which can serve as models for other communities to use and save children.

"Boston is now a safer place and we aim to keep it that way," Brown said of the Ten Point Coalition's 1998 initiative to confront emerging gang problems in the city. "Years ago, the threats were the neighborhood gangs that could be identified by the streets they lived on, the parks they roamed," said Brown. Recently, though, nationally based gangs have infiltrated Boston, recruiting across racial lines and geographic borders. "Youths were united across all colors. They solved the race problem, but in a negative way."

The Ten Point Coalition forged a large alliance, the Crips and Bloods Initiative, by working with the Boston police, the school district and all the principals, the Department of Youth Services, and others. To keep children from enlisting in the new gangs, alliance members presented a united front at Boston's middle and high schools. Said Brown, "We told the students, 'We're trying to solve your life and rebuild our communities. We don't want to go to any of your funerals; we care about you; we love you.' "

The Initiative offered help to those needing jobs and those trying to get out of gangs. At the same time, it put pressure on those who chose to join a gang over keeping their community safe. "We told them, any resistance and we're going to come down hard on you," said Brown.

The Initiative reached more than 3,000 students, found jobs for 300 youths, mentored dozens of youths in the juvenile justice system, and helped the police identify adult gang members who were recruiting youths. "This, in combination with our other efforts, helped to have a measurable impact," Brown said. "This summer was relatively quiet—refreshingly quiet."

To share its ideas and successes with other communities, some founding members of the Boston Ten Point Coalition spawned the National TenPoint Leadership Foundation. This year, the foundation worked with church groups in cities from Buffalo, N.Y., to Tampa, Fla., from Philadelphia to Indianapolis.

Said Brown, "We're trying to help clergy groups see that we have to do business differently. We have to be intentional in organizing street ministries and direct-intervention ministries that will go after those youths whom most people have written off."

For more information, contact the National TenPoint Leadership Foundation, 411 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02124; 617-822-0335; fax 617-822-1832.

Top 10 list for preventing violence

Boston's Ten Point Coalition has called on church agencies to work collaboratively to reduce gun violence. It promotes efforts in a number of areas, including the following:
- Reaching out to members of youth gangs through a street ministry;
- Acting as advocates, mediators, and mentors for Black and Latino juveniles in local courts and schools, and on the streets;
- Commissioning youth workers to do street-level work with drug dealers and vulnerable youths;
- Developing concrete and specific economic alternatives to the drug economy;
- Establishing working partnerships among inner-city and suburban churches and ministries;
- Starting and supporting neighborhood crime watches;
- Establishing partnerships between churches and community health centers;
- Establishing peer-group alternatives to violent gang life;
- Establishing rape crisis drop-in centers, services for battered women, and counseling for abusive men;
- Developing an alternative educational curriculum for Black and Latino youths to promote literacy.

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Poverty stats reveal some good news, more bad news

(Continued from page 4)

income tax credit, so they can put food on the table and lift their children out of poverty." She added that by voting down the minimum wage increase, Congress let slip a great opportunity to start helping these families.

The poverty figures also showed:

- Two of every five Americans (40 percent) living in poverty were children, although children represent only 26 percent of the overall population.
- 19.9 percent of all children younger than 18 were poor in 1997, which does not represent a significant improvement over the 20.5 percent who were poor in 1996.
- If the slight improvement in child poverty continues to progress at the same rate, it will take another six years (the year 2003) until the child poverty rate falls back to where it was in 1979.
- In 3.7 million poor families with children, the head of the family worked in 1997. This marks the highest number of working poor families since 1975, when the Census Bureau first began collecting such data. The proportion of poor families with children headed by a worker (62 percent) was also the highest on record.
- The average poor family with children in 1997 got nearly three times as much of its income from work ($5,295 a year) as from welfare ($1,824 a year).

Of note

The August 1998 *CDF Reports* article "Early Findings Begin to Quantify Hardships Among Families Leaving Welfare," inadvertently omitted that the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Welfare and Human Rights Monitoring Project gathered the material related to Maria's story, which opens the article.

For more information on how the 1996 welfare law is affecting people across the country, especially in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Washington, contact the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee at 800-388-3920 for the report Is It Reform? The 1998 Report of the Welfare and Human Rights Monitoring Project.

Table 2 — **Child Poverty**

Related children living below one-HALF of the poverty line

	Number*	As % of all children	As % of poor children
1997	5,907	8.5%	44%
1996	5,854	8.4	42
1995	5,517	7.9	39
1994	6,442	9.4	44
1993	6,534	9.6	44
1992	6,365	9.7	46
1991	6,022	9.3	44
1990	5,286	8.3	43
1989	4,862	7.7	43
1988	5,372	8.5	43
1987	5,434	8.7	43
1986	5,191	8.4	42
1985	5,027	8.1	40
1984	5,358	8.7	41
1983	5,618	9.2	42
1982	5,287	8.6	40
1981	4,543	7.4	38
1980	4,075	6.6	37
1979	3,398	5.6	35
1978	3,274	5.3	34
1977	3,204	5.1	32
1976	2,811	4.4	28
1975	3,426	5.3	31

* In thousands
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund

Table 3 — **Child Poverty**

Persons younger than 18: Number and percentage in poverty, 1996 and 1997

	Number* poor		Percentage poor	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
Total	14,113	14,463	19.9%	20.5%
White	8,990	9,044	16.1	16.3
Black	4,225	4,519	37.2	39.9
Asian and Pacific Islander	628	571	20.3	19.5
Hispanic**	3,972	4,237	36.8	40.3
Central city	6,146	6,509	28.9	30.8
Suburb	4,758	4,787	13.3	13.5
Rural (Nonmetro)	3,209	3,167	22.7	22.4
Northeast	2,494	2,489	19.7	19.2
Midwest	2,577	2,590	15.2	15.5
South	5,303	5,543	21.6	22.9
West	3,739	3,842	22.1	22.9
In primary families	13,422	13,764	19.2	19.8
Married couple	4,759	5,035	9.5	10.1
Female headed	7,928	7,990	49.0	49.3
Male headed	735	739	21.7	22.8
Family member works	9,581	9,471	14.7	14.7
Full time, year-round	3,594	3,678	6.6	6.9
No workers in family	3,841	4,293	84.9	88.9

* In thousands
** Hispanics can be of any race
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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One step for children

Raise awareness and take action to meet children's needs

(See page 5)

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CDF Reports

Marian Wright Edelman, President

December 1998
Volume 19, Number 12

Children's Sabbaths

Congregations pledge faithful action on behalf of children

At more than $450 a month, tuition at the Riviera Presbyterian Church's Child Care Center in Miami is beyond the reach of many Dade County, Fla., parents.

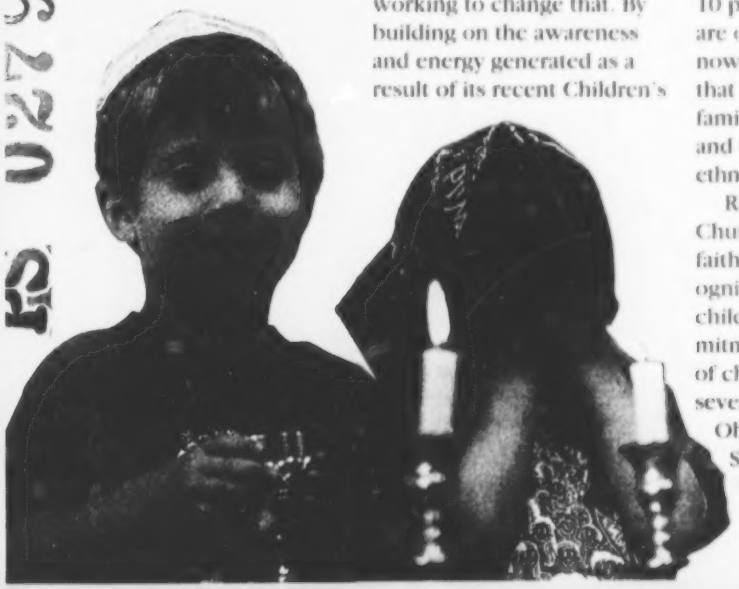
"Our particular challenge is that we were established 18 years ago for working parents," explained Vivian German, assistant director of the center and a longtime member of the congregation. "But today, to be able to provide the quality child care that we do while maintaining our low child-teacher ratio and keeping our teachers is really hard. Many parents can't afford to pay the rates we need to charge."

Congregation and community members who participated in the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths in October are working to change that. By building on the awareness and energy generated as a result of its recent Children's Sabbath celebration, the congregation is networking to secure funding so that more children of working parents will be able to enroll in the center.

"We are hoping that we can find someone who's interested in investing into an endowment fund so we can use the interest for more tuition assistance for those in the area who have that need," German said. "At least 10 percent of our families are on tuition assistance now. But we want to expand that to be able to reach more families in the community and to reach out to more ethnic and economic groups."

Riviera Presbyterian Church is just one of many faith communities that recognized the unique gifts of children and affirmed a commitment to action on behalf of children as part of the seventh annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths held Oct. 16–18 (see photo on page 2).

(See page 2)



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Congregations pledge faithful action on behalf of children

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Coordinated annually by CDF in cooperation with nearly 200 denominations and religious organizations, Children's Sabbaths are a time to honor and renew congregational efforts for children.

Photo © Eugene Picciano

Riviera Presbyterian Church welcomed children and families from Dade County, Fla., to its recent Children's Sabbath event.

The celebrations also are intended to inspire congregations to take their faith a step further by improving the lives of children through hands-on service and long-term advocacy.

Raising up children through Sabbath celebrations

Each faith community that set aside the third weekend in October for the 1998 National Observance of Children's Sabbaths recognized children in its own creative way. Here are just a few examples:

- During its intergenerational worship service, the Mission Peak Unitarian Universalists in Fremont, Calif., created a "quilt of promise" by linking together a patchwork of messages written and drawn on construction paper to convey how they would raise up or support a child.
- At the conclusion of its service, the Crenshaw United Methodist Church in Blackstone, Va., sent each congregation member home with a Band-Aid, a key, a penny, or a heart. Representing the health, housing, financial, and emotional needs of local children, these tokens were reminders to pray and take action on behalf of children.
- For its fifth annual Children's Sabbath observance, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana in Illinois featured a child care display board provided by the local Child Care Resource Service (see photo on page 14).
- In Minneapolis, children from the First Congregational Church of Minnesota United Church of Christ drew pictures of themselves and their families to help Congress "get the picture" about the urgent need for quality, affordable child care. This winter, CDF will present these and other posters collected from communities around the country to lawmakers to illustrate the need for prompt congressional action on child care in 1999.

Inspiring action to meet local needs

Although this year's theme, Gifted and Called to Raise Up Our Children, placed a special emphasis on the need

(See page 14)

Bishops' initiative focuses on children and poverty

The United Methodist Church recently signaled its unwavering commitment to urge congregations to put faith into action on behalf of children. Its new initiative on children and poverty, *A Church for All God's Children*, calls for faith communities to respond to children's needs through a variety of specific activities.

Created by the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, the initiative highlights CDF's National Observance of Children's Sabbaths as one powerful way of sensitizing congregations to the circumstances faced by children and poor families.

"Children's Sabbath provides an opportunity for ministry with the spiritual needs of children," explained Bishop Marshall L. Meadors Jr. of the United Methodist Church in Jackson, Miss.

"Children's Sabbath is a time to put children at the center of our worship and ministry and to celebrate them," he said. "It is also a time to make congregations aware of the needs of children and the conditions that affect children in the church, the community, the state, and globally."

Formalized last summer, *A Church for All God's Children* developed as Council of Bishops' members grew more concerned about how poorly low-income children are faring—even in today's strong economy. Along with asking congregations nationwide to be more responsive to children's needs, the initiative seeks to help congregations become more child-friendly and more hospitable to poor families.

It calls on churches to educate congregations not only through Children's Sabbaths, but also by working with CDF to develop Child Watch Visitation Programs, which give community members opportunities to witness firsthand the problems encountered by children and families.

A Church for All God's Children also urges congregations to make church facilities safe and welcoming for children and families; help reduce the risk of child abuse; help children grow as faithful disciples; involve children in the life of the church; reach out to children in the community; advocate for legislation and public policies that improve children's lives and the lives of poor families; relate to children around the world; and build administrative supports for ministry with children and the poor.

For an information packet and resources on how to become A Church for All God's Children, *contact the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church, PO Box 1147, Jackson, MS 39215; phone 601-354-0515; fax 601-948-5982; or visit http://www.umc.org/initiative/ on the Web.*

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A Voice for Children

by CDF President Marian Wright Edelman

Protect our children

"The lioness comes out in you, and your entire focus becomes to protect your child and other children," said actor Elisabeth Shue at CDF's 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration at the John F. Kennedy Center on Nov. 17. After the performance she explained how having her first baby had changed her. "I saw how vulnerable he was, and that made the depth of my sensitivity to other children and their turmoil grow."

We need to call on the lion and lioness in each and every one of us if we are to protect the children of this nation. They have so many needs that demand our constant vigilance, courage, and strength to stand against injustice, ignorance, and apathy.

Every 10 seconds in America, a child is reported abused or neglected. Child homelessness is epidemic, with the National Coalition for the Homeless reporting that 1.1 million children are living in emergency shelters at any given time. The actual number of homeless children is higher according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, because in 29 cities, an estimated 32 percent of requests by homeless families for shelter went unmet in 1997. Even children who are in less dire circumstances are still far from being able to live the American dream because fewer young families can stretch their paychecks enough to buy a home.

We need to call on the lion and lioness in each and every one of us if we are to protect the children of this nation. They have so many needs that demand our constant vigilance, courage, and strength to stand against injustice, ignorance, and apathy.

Millions of children are "preschoolers" in name only—they are not being given the preparation and tools they need to be ready to learn. About 5 million older children are home alone after school, without the supervision and structured activities they need to steer clear of trouble and to stay on track academically.

The list of hardships our children face goes on and on, but rather than despair, we need to mobilize and organize our efforts, and we must remain determined and hopeful. Let's remember that we have witnessed great improvements in children's lives. Before 1975, five out of every eight children with disabilities did not receive schooling; now 99 percent do. With the new state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), 5 million children whose families do not have health insurance finally have the opportunity to receive the health care they need and deserve.

A new Congress and many new governors and state legislators will take office in January, leading us into the next millennium. Child advocates must insist that our elected and appointed representatives put children first. Working parents need help to secure quality, affordable child care. We must strive to eradicate child poverty and to ensure that jobs pay enough for the millions of families with children who work every day to escape poverty. And we must insist that every child enters school ready to learn and succeed in school, is expected and supported to achieve in school, and is positively engaged after school.

Won't you join with me in this last year of our century to build a movement to ensure that no child is left behind.

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Advocates share CHIP outreach and enrollment strategies

In Alabama, about one-fifth of all adults are functionally illiterate. That's why advocates are striving to ensure that parents can understand application and enrollment procedures for ALLKids, the state's new children's health insurance program (CHIP), and Medicaid, which was recently expanded to cover more Alabama children.

This is just one of the many challenges facing advocates across the United States as they seek ways to accelerate CHIP outreach and enrollment to millions of families whose children have no health insurance coverage.

Advocates shared such challenges as they swapped information about what's working in their states—and what's not—during a November conference on CHIP. CDF, Families USA, and the National Association of Child Advocates cosponsored the two-day conference, "Delivering on the Promise: What's Next in Children's Health." More than 100 advocates from nearly every state came to learn about topics ranging from best practices to CHIP implementation monitoring and getting the word out to families.

Alabama's outreach efforts included mailing its AllKids/Medicaid applications this past August to every school district in the state. As of early November, Alabama had received 24,000 applications that officials link to this campaign, said Mary Weidner, policy analyst with Alabama Arise in Montgomery. "I think CHIP is the best thing that's happened for children in Alabama since Medicaid," Weidner said.

To better connect with adults who may have trouble reading and comprehending complex forms, officials limited the application to four pages and simplified directions. The Alabama Hospital Association developed a marketing strategy with easy-to-read posters and information packets. In addition, the state has made available coupon booklets to remind parents when to send in their $5 monthly premium payments. "I feel that we're off to a really good start," Weidner said. "Everyone is very enthusiastic about this program."

Keeping up the momentum on CHIP

Advocates must continue reaching out to state and local networks to see that as many children as possible sign up for and are enrolled in CHIP, advised CDF's Health Division Deputy Director Gregg Haifley. "We need to keep the pressure up to move forward, but we also need to hold states accountable for the things they are not doing," he said, noting that several states are not yet participating in CHIP or are not doing their best to reach all uninsured children.

He noted that Congress will likely pass legislation in 1999 to address some of the problems that states are encountering with CHIP implementation, including the lack of CHIP evaluation tools. Haifley also told advocates to expect that the president's FY 2000 budget proposal, due out in February, will include substantial Medicaid outreach funds. "We need to keep pushing on this," Haifley said.

Resources to help "Sign Them Up!"

- Details about the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) application procedures, qualification guidelines, benefits, and outreach are now available through CDF's Web site. Visit Sign Them Up! at www.childrensdefense.org/signup for comprehensive information on CHIP in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Governors' Association recently launched a hotline number to help enroll children in CHIP. The toll-free number, 1-877-KIDS-NOW, routes callers to state agencies handling CHIP enrollment. Currently operating in Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Utah, the number goes nationwide early next year.

CDF welcomes new health director

Margaret ("Margo") Edmunds joined CDF in November as the director of the Health Division. Edmunds has experience in a broad range of health policy issues, including those related to health care quality, access, and financing. She most recently served as senior program officer at the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, where she was responsible for a national study, *Children, Health Insurance, and Access to Care*.

Between 1992 and 1995, Edmunds was project director for the Evaluation of California Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative at the Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco. From 1990–1992, she was project director for the Primary Care/Substance Abuse Linkage Initiative with the U.S. Public Health Service at Aurora Associates, Inc.; from 1986–1992, she was an affiliate staff member at the Behavioral Medicine Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Edmunds is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, where she earned a doctorate in Human Development (Community-Clinical Psychology).

25 years of child advocacy

Building a legacy to *Leave No Child Behind*

People © Rhoda D. Thomas, from *at every step*, Stark Raving Sane Publications

When CDF first began in 1973, virtually no multi-issue child advocacy groups existed at the state and local levels. Advocacy was an unpopular word, and the concerns of voteless, voiceless children were largely ignored or marginalized. It was an environment sorely in need of an organization that could provide planned, systematic, and sustained advocacy to bring about reforms for children.

The Washington Research Project (WRP) acted to fill this need as part of its overarching mission to provide a voice for poor and minority citizens. The WRP itself was the offspring of the Poor People's Campaign begun by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before his assassination; it was founded in 1968 by Marian Wright Edelman to serve as counsel, as well as federal and congressional liaison, to Dr. King's campaign. In launching its Children's Defense Fund office in Cambridge, Mass., in 1973, the WRP thus gave the Poor People's Campaign a healthy and determined grandchild. Edelman explained her new organization's aspirations in a 1973 interview for *Harvard Educational Review*:

> We hope to bridge two large gaps. One is between people in local communities and advocates at the federal level. The former care about [children] but have no larger strategies into which they can fit their local action, and the latter may be politically savvy but need support from local groups to implement any kind of change. . . .
>
> The second gap is among people in various disciplines. Researchers and academics have gone off in one direction and those of us who have been involved in policy have gone off in another. As a result, there is often no useful evidence on the particular issues policy makers need to make decisions about. . . . CDF is attempting to cut down on the usual fragmentation of effort by molding a staff of people from various disciplines who will seek a unified approach to change.

In its first decade, CDF researched and defined critical needs in all racial and income groups, outlined and tested strategies to meet those needs through personal and collective action, and tried to organize already converted child advocates to act more forcefully and collaboratively to protect *all* children.

Subsequently, CDF began to reach out to educate and convert organized

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Building a legacy to *Leave No Child Behind*
(Continued from page 5)
mainstream networks about the importance of child investment. It also broadened its national policy development and advocacy work, and it strengthened its state advocacy and implementation capacity. It began analyzing the federal budget's impact on children and publishing the *Children's Defense Budget*—and eventually an annual *State of America's Children Yearbook*. In 1981, CDF convened its first annual national conference, began disseminating a proactive child survival agenda, and rallied and trained child advocates to support it.

Now halfway through its third decade, CDF is building the leadership, community-organizing, and communications capacity to push children's needs to the top of national, state, and local priorities. It seeks to do the following:

- Disseminate information about what works to a critical mass of advocates, policy makers, and citizens, while striving to move such best practices to a scale that can help *all* children;
- Provide the skills building and other supports that advocates and others need to implement sound child policies and practices;
- Work collaboratively with others to create a positive national climate and massive change for children.

The following chronology outlines some of the highlights in CDF's 25-year campaign to plant the seeds for what Edelman calls "a massive moral movement to *Leave No Child Behind*."

Fighting for the right to an education

CDF's first publication, *Children Out of School in America* (1974), exposed the shocking reality that more than 2 million American children were not attending school. Many had disabilities. Stunned by the statistics, CDF, along with other groups, advocated for change at the national level. At the same time, CDF opened a Mississippi state office to learn how to organize parents of special needs children. It sought ways to overcome the school and community barriers to educational services for children with disabilities. After many door-to-door contacts with parents and school officials, CDF filed a class action lawsuit against the state.

As a result, CDF achieved a consent decree that enabled 40,000 Mississippi children to attend school. In addition, federal legislation (1975's P.L. 94-142) for the first time guaranteed children with disabilities the right to attend public schools.

Unfortunately, the child advocacy task does not end with enactment of a new law or regulation. Legal victories are seldom, if ever, self-executing. States, local school boards, educators, and parents have to be informed and involved if new policies for children are to become real.

CDF's national and Mississippi offices spent years implementing the Mississippi consent decree and the new federal education law for children with disabilities. They worked with school officials and parents to implement quality services in classrooms for children with disabilities. Relying on experience gained in Mississippi, CDF helped the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare develop federal guidelines under P.L. 94-142 for all states.

After the new law's regulations were adopted, CDF wrote and disseminated 100,000 simple booklets for educators and parents to help children gain the intended benefits.

"It is this comprehensive approach and focused follow-through, undergirded by quality research, that have been CDF's hallmark over the past quarter-century," said Edelman.

1973

As the WRP continued its Washington work to protect poor and minority citizens, a Children's Defense Fund office—with staff including Marian Wright Edelman, Paul Smith, Hillary Rodham, Daniel Yohalem, and Rochelle Beck—opened at 1742 Cambridge Street in Cambridge, Mass., to conduct research on the needs of children. Their first major study was a door-to-door survey in 30 census tracts on children excluded from school in America.

Their work sparked a two-volume special edition of the *Harvard Educational Review* on the Rights of Children, published with a range of distinguished authors.

A CDF Juvenile Justice Division was opened in the Field Foundation offices in New York City by Judge Justine Wise Polier with her colleague Elizabeth Wickenden.

1974

First CDF report, *Children Out of School in America*, was published, and CDF state office opened in Jackson, Miss., to implement its recommendations for children with disabilities. Report was a key catalyst for enactment of a federal right to education for children with disabilities—The Education for All Handicapped Children Act—P.L. 94-142.

(See page 7)

Building a legacy to *Leave No Child Behind*
(Continued from page 6)

1975

CDF's Child Health Division established in national office in Washington.

1976

Children in Adult Jails published after visits to more than 440 jails across America. Prior congressional testimony on findings by Judge Polier led to federal prohibition of jailing children with adults.

Major child care project launched in national office.

1977

Published report *EPSDT: Does It Spell Health Care for Poor Children?*, challenging poor state enforcement of this important Medicaid health program for poor children.

1978

After several years of research, CDF issued major report, *Children Without Homes*, documenting conditions of more than 500,000 children living away from their families. CDF follow-up led to enactment of Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980.

CDF launched Children's Public Policy Network and "how-to" pamphlets to strengthen state and local citizen action for children.

Legal name changed from Washington Research Project to the Children's Defense Fund on October 6, 1978.

1979

America's Children and Their Families: Basic Facts and *It's Time to Stand Up for Your Children: A Parent's Guide to Child Advocacy* published.

1980

Monthly *CDF Reports* begun.

1981

First annual *Children's Defense Budget* published and first annual CDF national conference convened to protect children when critical national budget priorities are determined.

Child Watch Visitation Program founded to monitor and document the local impact of massive federal budget cuts on children and the poor. Collaboration established with Association of Junior Leagues, National Council of Negro Women, and others.

1982

First annual CDF nonpartisan voting record of members of Congress on children released.

CDF state office opened in Ohio.

City Lights School opened to serve seriously troubled youths in the District of Columbia and to implement successful CDF lawsuit in *Bobby D. v. Barry*. City Lights has served 1,400 youths since its beginning and is now run by a community board.

1983

First CDF Children's Survival Bill set baseline positive child investment agenda for Congress.

Religious networking campaign launched to encourage stronger moral voice and action by people of faith on behalf of children and families.

1984

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign launched.

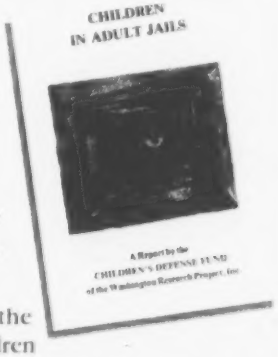
Two state offices opened in Minnesota and Texas to address child health needs. Minnesota became first state to enact major reform for uninsured children and families, and Texas indigent health care legislation was enacted.

Weekly *Child Watch* column syndicated to Black newspapers, and regular survey of state child care policies begun.

(See page 8)

Exposing cruel and unusual punishment

CDF's study *Children in Adult Jails*, published in 1976, undertook an investigation that no federal agency had conducted previously. "The absence of knowledge and the misconception about children held in jail caused CDF to seek to learn more about children who were or had been in jail," explained Judge Justine Wise Polier, director of CDF's Juvenile Justice Division, in the foreword.



Examining the legality of locking up children in adult jails and how the practice could be stopped, the publication also gave an in-depth portrait of the children and why they were in adult jails. It exposed the chilling effects that the experience had on them, using their own words.

As Judge Polier wrote,

> No summaries or statistics could portray the depth of anguish, fear, and terror when children feel abandoned, are subjected to abuse or fear of abuse, and are uncertain as to how long they will be locked up or what will happen to them in jail.
>
> These children found no adult to whom they could turn during long hours of loneliness, boredom, and even terror. Many seemed especially vulnerable, not only because of their immaturity, but because of past hurts and their uncertainty as to what might happen to them or whether there was anyone who cared and would want to help them.

Building a legacy to *Leave No Child Behind*

(Continued from page 7)

1985

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Clearinghouse established and five-year prenatal care campaign launched to reduce the incidence of infant mortality, low birthweight, and teen pregnancy. Twenty-eight reports published to define the complex adolescent pregnancy problem and who could do what to solve it over ensuing years.

1986

Five-year adolescent pregnancy prevention media campaign launched in 14 states with Fallon McElligott, CDF's pro bono ad agency partner. Sixty-four community Adolescent Pregnancy Child Watch assessment projects developed to undergird media campaign.

Changing the state of child care

"Twenty-five years ago, there was no single federal child care program, very little state investment in child care, and considerably fewer mothers in the workforce than today," recalls Helen Blank, the director of CDF's Child Care Division, about how child care issues have changed in the past quarter-century. "Low-income families found little help from either the government or the private sector as they searched for child care and early education that would enable them to work and ensure their children's safety and well-being."

Blank, who has worked for CDF for the past 19 years, summed up the progress in child care:

> Federal and state funds, Head Start, and state pre-kindergarden programs have increased considerably. There is growing awareness of the importance of constructive activities for school-age children, and we have witnessed gradual and steady improvements in state licensing policies. However, even with this progress, we have miles to go to ensure that our children—from the youngest to the oldest—get the care they need from well-trained and well-compensated caregivers so they can be safe, succeed in school, and reach their full potential.

1987

Ford Foundation provided $3.5 million three-to-one endowment challenge grant to help build a CDF Future Fund.

CDF-Ohio published first *county* fact book on children.

1988

"Children 1988," the first nonpartisan election-year public awareness guide, was published to educate candidates and voters about children's needs and specific ways to meet them.

Reaching into America's heartland

In 1981, Marian Wright Edelman asked me to start a CDF-Ohio office. That year, I drove 25,000 miles visiting each of our 88 counties. And it's been an amazing ride ever since.

Today, when I revisit those communities, I see Head Start and child care programs, child support enforcement offices, health clinics, and WIC nutrition programs where few existed 17 years ago. Today, children are a serious focus for governors and legislators in both parties. It's exciting to walk into a jobs program and see parents finding work. It's gratifying to see more mothers receiving early prenatal care, more youngsters being immunized, and more children eating healthy meals at Head Start. Each change is gradual and takes more time than we would ever have guessed, but seeing the children in programs that didn't exist 17 years ago motivates us to do more.

—Mark Real, who has served as the director of CDF-Ohio for the last 17 years

1989

Marlboro County, S.C., office opened as demonstration project to prevent teen pregnancy and promote positive youth development.

1990

Child Watch Visitation Program established to expose community, media, political, and business leaders to child suffering and to positive community solutions to meet child needs.

In December, CDF convened 22 Black leaders with Dr. John Hope Franklin and Dr. Dorothy Height as co-chairs at the Rockefeller Foundation Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy, to discuss the Black child and family crisis and how to mobilize the Black community on behalf of children. Group decided to launch a Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC), for which CDF began a planning and follow-up process.

First annual Beat the Odds event celebrating youth success begun in Los Angeles by Black entertainment executives.

(See page 9)

Building a legacy to *Leave No Child Behind*
(Continued from page 8)

1991

CDF convened Black leaders for a second five-day meeting in Bellagio to launch intergenerational crusade to *Leave No Child Behind*. Follow-up meeting at Howard University organized a Black Student Leadership Network—now the Student Leadership Network for Children.

1992

CDF purchased national headquarters building at 25 E Street NW in Washington, D.C.

Launched first annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths, which was endorsed by more than 200 religious denominations, to lift up the needs of children in prayer, worship, service, and advocacy.

BCCC's Black Student Leadership Network brought 25 Black college-age leaders to Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., for training in community service and advocacy. Students conducted summer community service projects in several North Carolina communities.

New York City office opened to implement Medicaid health coverage for hundreds of thousands of eligible but uninsured children.

1993

Opened a local office for CDF and BCCC in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Broadcasters donated estimated $5 million for CDF–UNICEF childhood immunization campaign ads. Major League Baseball, U.S. Soccer Federation, and Ben and Jerry's joined immunization campaign as partners.

BCCC launched Freedom Schools project with Black college-age youths to provide reading, cultural, and nutritional enrichment to poor children and conflict resolution training for children and parents. Since its inception, 9,000 children have been served.

1994

CDF purchased 126-acre farm in Clinton, Tenn., formerly owned by the late Alex Haley, author of *Roots*. The farm serves as a center for spiritual renewal, leadership development, and intergenerational, interdisciplinary, and interracial communication.

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation provided $3 million challenge grant to be matched by the Black community to help endow the Haley Farm and the BCCC.

1995

CDF–New York City launched public–private collaborative campaign with Chase Manhattan Bank, the NYC Health Department, the Robin Hood Foundation, and others to lift city preschool vaccination rates from 52 percent to 90 percent over three years. The rate is now 81 percent.

Award-winning Web site created. Cited in *Yahoo Internet Life* "Top of the Net 1996."

First annual week-long Haley Farm Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry and Great Preacher Series launched. Later named in memory of the Rev. Samuel DeWitt Proctor.

1996

CDF convened Stand For Children Day on June 1 at Lincoln Memorial—the largest mass demonstration for children in U.S. history. Stand For Children was endorsed by 3,769 national, state, and local groups and was attended by more than 250,000 citizens of every faith, age, race, and ideology. The separately incorporated Stand For Children affiliate continues with more than 100 local chapters seeking to build an effective grassroots network for children.

CDF launched Community Monitoring Project to track the 1996 welfare law's (Temporary Assistance for

(See page 10)

Giving children with special needs a chance to shine

"We're working with children who are perhaps the most difficult to work with," said Ron Pettiway in describing the mission of City Lights School. This community-based program in Washington, D.C., offers educational, vocational, and clinical services to youths who are severely emotionally disturbed and need special education services 100 percent of the time they spend in school. For them, City Lights is the least restrictive environment in which they can learn, and it's their best hope for being able to take care of themselves and contribute to their communities.

Photo © City Lights School

City Lights serves young people ages 12 through 22 from throughout the District. "Our goal is to give these students vocational and marketing skills so they can go out and get a job and feel good about themselves," said Pettiway, who has served as executive director of City Lights for 12 years. "We want to help these students get to the point where they can live independently and take care of themselves."

City Lights School was founded in 1982 under the auspices of CDF, and it is now run by a community board. The school has served more than 1,400 students and has received citations of excellence from the American Psychiatric Association, the National Institute of Mental Health, and others.

"CDF was the one who broke the barriers down so that the program could actually exist," said Pettiway. "CDF was the one who got this ball rolling. On a more macro level, CDF is still the advocate, while we are taking the micro approach: We are the worker bees."

Building a legacy to *Leave No Child Behind*

(Continued from page 9)

Needy Families–Aid to Families of Dependent Children block grant) impact on poor children and families.

1997

Second Stand For Children Day conducted 700 local events on June 1 in all 50 states, focusing on the need to give children a Healthy Start. These grassroots activities, coupled with a 248-member, CDF-convened national Child Health NOW! Coalition, played a key role in enactment of the bipartisan $48 billion state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) cosponsored by Sens. Orrin Hatch (R–Utah) and Edward Kennedy (D–Mass.). CHIP will provide health coverage to at least 5 million uninsured children over the next 10 years. The bill represented the first-ever tax imposed by Congress on tobacco to help improve child health.

In light of accelerating devolution of responsibility for social welfare to states, CDF's Board targeted 10 states where a majority of *all* children, a majority of all poor children, and a majority of all minority children live, for a stronger CDF presence.

1998

Third Stand For Children Day sponsored 1,200 local events in all 50 states focused on the need for quality child care for preschool children and after-school and summer programs for school-age children. National Child Care NOW! Coalition of more than 100 groups convened by CDF to support bipartisan federal and state action to increase investments in early childhood development.

National CHIP implementation clearinghouse established to monitor state implementation of new child health program. CDF state child health projects launched in New York, California, and Texas to demonstrate success over next five years.

Ford and Mott endowment challenge grants completed.

CDF celebrates 25th anniversary with Lincoln Center and Kennedy Center galas and five action forums on Children, Race, and Poverty.

The reach of CDF

CDF's efforts have created a presence for children in every state, including more than 100 Stand For Children chapters that are now operated by a separately incorporated affiliate.

CDF also has established

- four state offices, three local offices, and one Southern Regional Office;
- 109 Child Watch coalitions;
- a network of 50,000 Children's Sabbaths congregations and religious leaders; and
- an intergenerational and interdisciplinary network of Black leaders.

Through the Black Community Crusade for Children and the Student Leadership Network for Children, CDF has trained more than 1,000 Black college-age youth leaders who have operated Freedom Schools offering educational, conflict resolution, and mentoring programs for more than 9,000 children.

Five priorities over the next decade

1. Strengthening CDF's communications, public education, programmatic, management, and technological capacities to ensure its cutting-edge leadership to make children a top national priority. CDF seeks to dramatically expand its outreach to millions of citizens and to state and local organizations, governments, and private sector networks.

2. Immediately accelerating and expanding CDF's state and local presence and leadership and community capacity-building efforts in light of devolution of responsibility to states and localities for family and child welfare. CDF's Board has approved a 10-target-state strategy where a majority of *all* children, all poor children, and all minority children live.

3. Creating 2,000 new leaders for children by 2000. CDF seeks to build a successor generation of skilled servant–leaders for children, especially young minority leaders, through Haley Farm leadership training and through the Black Community Crusade for Children's (BCCC) Student Leadership Network for Children.

4. Providing a continuum of skills building and leadership development training at the Haley Farm, in regions, and in the 10 target states through train-the-trainer models, roving training teams, and cutting-edge technology. Special attention will be paid to strengthening child advocate, media, and collaboration skills and to providing spiritual renewal to prevent burnout.

5. Taking the BCCC's policy and action vision to communities and to the public through new local alliances and effective Black leadership networks. BCCC will train a successor generation of young Black leaders; expand the Freedom Schools summer and after-school academic, cultural enrichment, and conflict resolution model now in 33 sites; implement the signature projects developed by BCCC's Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Leadership Council to prevent the growing incarceration of minority children; and to build a powerful faith-based voice and support system for Black children and all children.

Necessary

News from the Black Community Crusade for Children

Developing a curriculum to reclaim youths

The passage from adolescence to adulthood can be a rocky, sometimes downright dangerous journey. Programs across the country, however, are finding that "rites of passage" training programs and activities help prepare youths for the challenges and responsibilities of being a grown-up. Although the specific programming can vary from site to site, the overall approach focuses on exposing children to the culturally relevant attitudes, knowledge, and skills they need to mature emotionally and spiritually.

The Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) has been identifying the best practices of programs offering rites of passage. "We are working with people across the country who are using this method as a way of reclaiming our youths and maximizing the potential of young people and their families," said Dr. Theresa M. Okwumabua, a child clinical psychologist.

"We're seeing rites of passage as a preparation training program that promotes values and character development," said Okwumabua. "It offers an effective strategy for a wide range of children, from those who have problems to those who do not." She directs Let the Circle Be Unbroken: Rites of Passage, a program for school-age youth that has been adopted in several cities. Initiated in the 1991-1992 academic year, the program originally targeted pregnant or parenting adolescents in a special school setting, but now it reaches out to other youths as well.

Okwumabua is working with three colleagues—Katey Assem, Lawford Goddard, Ph.D., and Derrick Jackson—to research and develop a rites of passage curriculum for individuals wanting to establish programs in their homes, schools, churches, or communities. Through BCCC, they plan to release a manual in the summer of 2000 to expand the positive impact of rites of passage. "We are hoping that more individuals, organizations, and communities will see the relevance of this kind of training, not only for African American children, but for all children," Okwumabua said. The manual will help diverse groups adapt rites of passage programming to suit their culture and community.

Okwumabua is working with others to assess the benefits of rites of passage. There is already a lot of anecdotal evidence to show that such programming raises children's self-esteem. "Low self-esteem seems to contribute to every problem under the sun that a child could have," said Okwumabua, "including school failure, gang involvement, and substance abuse."

Rites of passage is a proactive way to reach out to youths, said Okwumabua in explaining why the strategy works. It provides the kinds of things that researchers are showing that children need—the qualities found among resilient youths; that is, those who are making it in spite of difficulties and challenges, said Okwumabua. Some of these include

- adult leadership;
- positive peer interaction;
- structured activities that focus on the strengths and potential of children, not their deficits;
- an ethnically and culturally relevant curriculum that teaches self-responsibility and emphasizes spiritual growth; and
- the involvement and interaction of community, family, and child.

In preparation for publishing the manual on rites of passage, BCCC has convened four meetings with practitioners from across the nation. Their input and feedback have been critical in writing a manual that is user-friendly and relevant.

Reinvigorating civic participation

In early February, the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) is looking forward to hosting civil rights leader Dorothy Cotton at a special workshop for young servant-leaders. "Ms. Cotton has long worked to enrich the idea and practice of youth service, so she is an ideal mentor to reinvigorate young people's commitment to civic participation," said Thomas Bowen, BCCC's senior field organizer. "She can offer a retrospective on the citizenship schools of the 1960s, which sought to prepare folks for participation in our democratic process, and at the same time, the program will look at today's electoral and political apathy and seek ways to raise people's participation."

The February workshop is part of an ongoing series of BCCC workshops on advanced service and advocacy. A three-day conference in September allowed some 50 participants to gain an understanding of both Robert's Rules of Order and the responsibilities of being gifted and called to serve children's needs. One session examined what BCCC can do to assist young servant-leaders in their communities and on their campuses as they work to help improve children's lives. The workshop also included sessions on grant writing, nonprofit management, networking, coalition building, and media advocacy. The upcoming conference will allow the participants to explore these topics even further.

"Young leaders feel they need to do more, but they often feel ill-equipped for the demands that can be placed on them. We understand their responsibilities and are using these workshops to attend to their needs and to empower them so they can do more on behalf of children," said Bowen.

CDF's "Legacy" shines with help from stars at silver anniversary gala

Well-known artists and those not-yet-famous but full of promise showcased their talents at CDF's 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration Nov. 17. The evening of music, song, and dance—entitled "Legacy"—reflected CDF's pride in its past and hope for the future. It also capped a year-long series of special events that marked CDF's quarter-century of advocacy, service, and leadership for children.

"CDF's work is so important," said actor **Phylicia Rashad** as to why she chose to participate in the gala, which took place at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. "It's common sense that our greatest asset is our children—all of our children. It makes perfect sense to treat them with regard and great care, to invest ourselves in them."

Rashad recently completed the film *Free of Eden*, in which she appears opposite **Sidney Poitier**, who co-hosted the CDF gala. At his side at the podium was his daughter **Sydney Tamiia Poitier**.

At the reception afterward, the young Poitier discussed why CDF and child advocacy are imperative if we are to bring an end to the poverty and violence that have been destroying young lives: "Children can't speak for themselves; they don't have the capacity to understand the insanity that is happening in the world around them. We adults are responsible for them."

The gala audience was wowed into a standing ovation after a rousing performance by the ***Louis Johnson's Children's Dance Theatre Workshop–Henry Street Kids.***

Other performers at the CDF gala included Oscar-nominated actor **Elisabeth Shue**, dancer **Baakari Wilder**—who's starring in *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk*—stage stars **Patti Davidson-Gorbea** and **Pedro Porro**, and singers **Graham Nash**, **N'kenge Simpson**, and **Denyce Graves**.

The Sara Lee Foundation served as underwriter for the gala. The benefit raised more than $1 million toward CDF's 25th anniversary campaign.

Photo © Sherri Byrand

Film legend Sidney Poitier appeared star-struck himself as he introduced* Dr. Dorothy Height *(center) to his daughter Sydney (right) at the reception following CDF's 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration. He described Height's achievements, which include a half-century of work for equality and human rights for all people. She served 41 years as president of the National Council of Negro Women and inaugurated the Center for Racial Justice, directing it for 12 years. Height also led, with acclaimed historian John Hope Franklin, a five-day CDF meeting that gave rise to the Black Community Crusade for Children in 1990.

The cast of CDF's gala celebration, including Phylicia Rashad and Sidney Poitier (left), joined with CDF President Marian Wright Edelman (center), and mezzo-sopranos ***Marietta Simpson*** *and Denyce Graves (right) in singing the finale, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."*

Photos © Todd Rosenberg

Youths from the ***Duke Ellington School of the Arts Show Choir*** *in Washington, D.C., accompanied musician and songwriter Graham Nash in singing his classic "Teach Your Children."*

(Continued from page 12)

Welfare monitoring partnership introduces Web site

Advocates wanting to stay apprised of developments in welfare policy have a new tool at their fingertips. The Web site of the National Welfare Monitoring and Advocacy Partnership (NWMAP), of which CDF is a member, provides up-to-date information about the impact of changing welfare policies on low-income families. NWMAP is a collaboration of advocates, organizers, and others working to document effects of the 1996 welfare law on children and families (see the September issue of *CDF Reports*, page 4).

All NWMAP partners help develop content for the Web site, which is hosted by CDF. The National Coalition for the Homeless designed the site and maintains it.

Located at www.nwmap.org on the Web, the site offers tools and ideas for monitoring, organizing, and advocating at the local level. The goal is to empower communities to identify problems and positive practices and to advocate on their own behalf.

Advocates will be able to find additional monitoring materials, the latest findings from local and state studies, and more tips for advocacy and organizing in the next few months.

For more information, contact Cheryl Amey, CDF, 25 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, phone 202-662-3556, or e-mail camey@childrensdefense.org; or Barbara Duffield, National Coalition for the Homeless, 1012 14th Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005-3410, phone 202-737-6444, or e-mail nch@ari.net.

CDF–Ohio links to the world via Web site

CDF-Ohio, which began its work in Columbus in 1981, broadened its reach in November with the launch of its Web site at www.cdfohio.org. The site conveys timely information about Head Start and child care, children's health, welfare and work, education, teen births, and other topics on which CDF-Ohio focuses. It also offers state and county-specific data and downloadable reports, including *Windows of Opportunity: Ohio Children and the 1998 Election*, a policy report released this past fall.

In coming months, the site will expand to include a calendar of events, action alerts, and advocacy materials.

For more information, call CDF-Ohio at 614-221-2244 or use the feedback form provided on the Web site.

Reaching out to neighbors at Haley Farm

CDF and Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) staff at the Former Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tenn., are helping draw attention to the lack of prenatal care in east Tennessee by collaborating with the Knoxville County Child Watch Coalition. The coalition held its first Child Watch Visitation Program on this topic a year ago. Since then, community members have been seeking ways to improve prenatal care and reduce the incidence of low-birthweight babies in the area (see "Shedding light on children's real needs" in the November issue of *CDF Reports*).

This past fall, Haley Farm hosted a coalition action committee meeting, where members brainstormed about ways that the local hospital and community could work together to provide prenatal care to underserved populations. As a result, committee members developed plans for a new prenatal care outreach clinic in East Knoxville. And they also devised a method for improving the collection of health data related to birth records at area hospitals.

"Along with serving as a retreat facility for groups nationally, Haley Farm is also becoming a local gathering place for groups to come together and strategize around community issues and concerns," said **Cynthia Finch**, director of Haley Farm. "One of the most meaningful ways we can advance our movement for children is by reaching out to our neighbors and making a difference at the community level—one step at a time."

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Congregations pledge faithful action on behalf of children

(Continued from page 2)

for quality, affordable child care and after-school programs, many congregations focused their worship services, educational programs, outreach efforts, and other activities on specific local concerns.

For example, in the St. Paul suburb of Roseville, Minn., the Catholic Community of Corpus Christi drew attention to the needs of low-income children and families living in an economically distressed area known as "Frogtown" as part of its fourth annual Children's Sabbath observance. In addition to collecting winter jackets and coats, parishioners donated back-to-school bags for area grade school children. "We found out what the children need and asked the community to get a school bag and fill it with the essentials," said Children's Sabbath coordinator Florence Andre.

Photo © Maxine Leonard

A multifaith celebration at Patriots Park in Phoenix featured Native American dancers.

Over the years, the parish has formed relationships with other community-based agencies. It collects baby clothes and layettes for Seaton Center, a counseling center for young mothers in downtown St. Paul, and works closely with a south Minneapolis shelter for abused women and children. Each spring, the parish also coordinates a legislative advocacy group that conducts letter-writing campaigns to state lawmakers.

Many celebrations are hosted by individual churches and congregations, but others unite people across several faiths. In Phoenix, a multifaith celebration pulled together hundreds of children and adults of different faith traditions to recognize children's needs in downtown Patriots Park (see photo above).

Organized by the Arizona Ecumenical Council, the observance featured speakers who highlighted problems—and action steps—relating to hunger and violence among children. Children also drafted brief messages to the governor and state lawmakers to remind them about the importance of children's health, education, safety, and other needs.

"During our Children's Sabbath we tried to show that we can do something about hunger by supporting food banks and other efforts sponsored by churches, mosques, and synagogues," said Paul Eppinger, executive director of the Arizona Ecumenical Council. "We said to participants, in your own churches, you can help your members recognize domestic violence or sexual abuse of children."

The event's "call to action" helped convey the message that faith communities are well-positioned to advocate for change, Eppinger said. "We *can* make a difference in the thinking of our legislative officials."

At B'nai Sholom Congregation in Huntington, W.Va., a Friday night service raised awareness throughout the community of some of the ongoing problems taking a toll on area parents and children. "What we're experiencing here mirrors problems nationally, but Huntington has a higher level of poverty and unemployment than the national average," said Rabbi David Wucher. "I think the observance was helpful. It inspired people to learn how they can support community agencies that try to help children and families in need."

Photo © Peggy Patten

Children helped draw attention to local child care needs at a Children's Sabbath in Urbana, Ill.

Creating long-range projects through Children's Sabbaths

School-age children in Florence, S.C., will get a little extra help with their homework next semester thanks to the community's enthusiastic response to the Children's Sabbath celebration coordinated by the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. The congregation plans to start an after-school program two days a week for children experiencing problems with mathematics and reading. The tutoring program will be open to congregation members and their friends and will likely be staffed by college students, said Diann Brown, a youth program director at St. Paul A.M.E.

Another ongoing project resulted from the A.M.E.'s Children's Sabbath, which included child abuse prevention experts. The congregation has arranged for one of the experts to teach a series of classes to help children understand inappropriate touching, molestation, and other forms of child sexual abuse.

Children from the Providence United Methodist Church in Quinton, Va., whose families cannot afford to send them to Christian summer camp will have a chance to go next summer. The church is launching a project designed to raise funds for tuition costs.

Faithful advocates from many different traditions and walks of life agree that uniting community members for one weekend each year to focus on making a difference in children's lives lends an enduring spirit to the Children's Sabbaths.

"Through the Children's Sabbath we were able to bring the church and local community and the family community of the child care center together in a service that was totally about children and the need for child care," said German of the Riviera Presbyterian Church's Sabbath celebration. "It was a beautiful and moving service, and it came together in a way that was like we were being blessed."

CDF loses dear friend, long-time Board member

"I'm not presumptuous enough to think you can move the world 10 degrees, but you can move it half a degree," said filmmaker and child advocate Henry E. Hampton in a 1997 interview for *Access Expressed!*, a journal published by Very Special Arts Massachusetts. In his short life, however, Mr. Hampton managed to move the world and its people much further than even he thought possible. As a humanist and historian, he used the power of the arts to create positive change.

Mr. Hampton, of Boston, died at the age 58 on Sunday evening, Nov. 22, after battling lung cancer for nearly 10 years. Despite his illness, as well as the effects of contracting polio when he was 15, he served as a valiant champion for children and for the rights of people of color and those with disabilities.

A self-taught filmmaker, Mr. Hampton is best known as the creator and executive producer of the award-winning *Eyes on the Prize*. This landmark documentary showed the public how Black people helped themselves through the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. "*Eyes on the Prize* was successful beyond my wildest dreams," said Mr. Hampton, "because it took history that people thought they knew but didn't really know diddly about and gave it a sweep. We hit these high stories along the way and showed how they were part of a rising tide."

Henry E. Hampton

Founding Blackside, Inc., in 1968, Mr. Hampton had served as its director since. He produced such programming as the Emmy Award-winning *The Great Depression*, *Malcolm X: Make It Plain*, and *America's War on Poverty*. He co-authored *Voices of Freedom*, an oral history of the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1994, Mr. Hampton was the first recipient of the Harold C. Fleming Award, recognizing "a lifetime of service in the field of political participation and community education against hatred in politics." His many other awards and honors include the first Heinz Family Foundation Award in the field of arts and humanities.

Mr. Hampton recently told Paul Kahn, editor of *Access Expressed!*, that he saw stories as "political weapons, as tools for learning" to fight for "justice, equity, and fairness." He saw his life as a chance to change the world for the better, and he worked hard to do just that. Though he said that his disability made him a quieter person, one who learned to listen, he also proved himself to be a dynamic individual who could tell a story and have others learn from it.

"Henry E. Hampton was a vital and important voice in the world and a loved member of CDF's family. We will all miss him very, very much," said CDF President Marian Wright Edelman.

U.S. Child Firearm Deaths

Firearm deaths of children and teens younger than 20, by manner, 1979–1996*

	Total	Homicide	Suicide	Accident	Unknown
1979	3,710	1,651	1,220	726	113
1980	3,749	1,743	1,214	689	103
1981	3,589	1,660	1,213	604	112
1982	3,332	1,498	1,207	550	77
1983	2,962	1,238	1,150	504	70
1984	3,030	1,289	1,114	552	75
1985	3,169	1,322	1,256	519	72
1986	3,349	1,513	1,293	472	71
1987	3,400	1,573	1,281	467	79
1988	3,974	1,953	1,387	543	91
1989	4,384	2,367	1,380	567	70
1990	4,935	2,852	1,476	541	66
1991	5,329	3,247	1,436	551	95
1992	5,353	3,336	1,426	501	90
1993	5,715	3,625	1,460	526	104
1994	5,793	3,579	1,565	512	137
1995	5,254	3,249	1,450	440	115
1996	4,611	2,836	1,309	376	92

*Updates a chart that appeared in October 1998 issue of *CDF Reports* to exclude all firearm deaths by legal intervention.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Vital Statistics, Table 292 (unpublished).

Calculations by Children's Defense Fund

Web site for latest in advocacy

Citizen lobbyists can stay informed about and involved in a wide variety of issues through the Web site "If Not Now." At www.ifnotnow.com on the Internet, the site provides briefings and letters on issues sponsored by more than a dozen major organizations, including CDF.

"If Not Now" also offers results from letter-writing campaigns, responses from officials, and voter's scorecards. Registered users can send electronic letters directly to their representatives by paying $14 per year.

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One step for children

Help build a movement for the next millennium to ensure that no child is left behind

(See page 3)

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I am CDF

LOOK AT ME. I AM PROUD OF WHERE I HAVE BEEN AND KNOW WHERE I AM GOING. MY DREAMS ARE ROOTED IN THE DEEP SOUTH WHERE I WAS BORN—BUT BLOSSOMED IN THE CAPITAL OF THIS GREAT NATION. I WAS CONCEIVED IN POVERTY BUT KNEW THAT OUR RICHES ARE TO BE SHARED. YOU KNOW WHO I AM. YOU HAVE SEEN ME ON EVERY BATTLEFIELD WHERE CHILDREN ARE NEGLECTED. I AM THE VOICE OF THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA. I SPEAK LOUD—AND CLEAR. I SHOUT UNTIL SOMEONE HEARS ME. I AM COMPASSIONATE. I AM ANGRY AND OUTRAGED WHEN MY CHILDREN ARE POOR OR SICK OR HUNGRY OR ILLITERATE. MY CHILDREN ARE ALL THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW. MY BODY IS COMFORTABLE AND SOFT TO PROTECT MY CHILDREN, BUT FIRM AND FIT TO FIGHT THEIR BATTLES. MY HEART IS GENTLE AND KIND, BUT HARD AND TOUGH WHEN FACED WITH INJUSTICE AND IGNORANCE. . . . MY FIRST BIG POLITICAL LESSON WAS THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU TELL PEOPLE THE TRUTH, DOESN'T MEAN THEY WILL DO THE RIGHT THING. . . . BUT WITH ME I CARRY THE COURAGE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., FANNIE LOU HAMER, THE REVEREND SAMUEL DEWITT PROCTOR, ROBERT KENNEDY, ELLA BAKER, ANDREW YOUNG. YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE. THEY HAVE ALL FOUGHT IN THIS REVOLUTION. I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN WHERE I CAME FROM OR WHO MY FRIENDS ARE—FRIENDS LIKE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON. YOU HAVE SEEN THEM MARCHING AT MY SIDE—ALONG WITH MY SISTERS MAYA ANGELOU, DOROTHY HEIGHT, DONNA SHALALA, UNITA BLACKWELL, JOHNNETTA COLE, MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN.

I CAN AND WILL MARCH, WALK, SIT-IN, SIT ON, CLIMB, LIFT, CARRY, HIKE, TROT, AND STAND FOR CHILDREN UNTIL EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA IS GIVEN A START—A *HEALTHY START*, A *HEAD START*, A *FAIR START*, A *SAFE START*, A *MORAL START*. I AM THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND. I WILL *LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND*.

—WRITTEN BY JOHN MORAN AND KITTY LANSDALE, THE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE CDF 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION

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